Vagabond
vol. 34

Vagabond

Three Hundred Views of the Great Journey

AUH?
HM?
Hm
Hm
YAH
YAH
MIYAMOTO
MUSASHI
WHAT?
UGLY
WAH

FWOWOM
FWOWOM
GIVE UP
Who Knows
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU.
TAHEZO

HOW ABOUT THIS ONE?

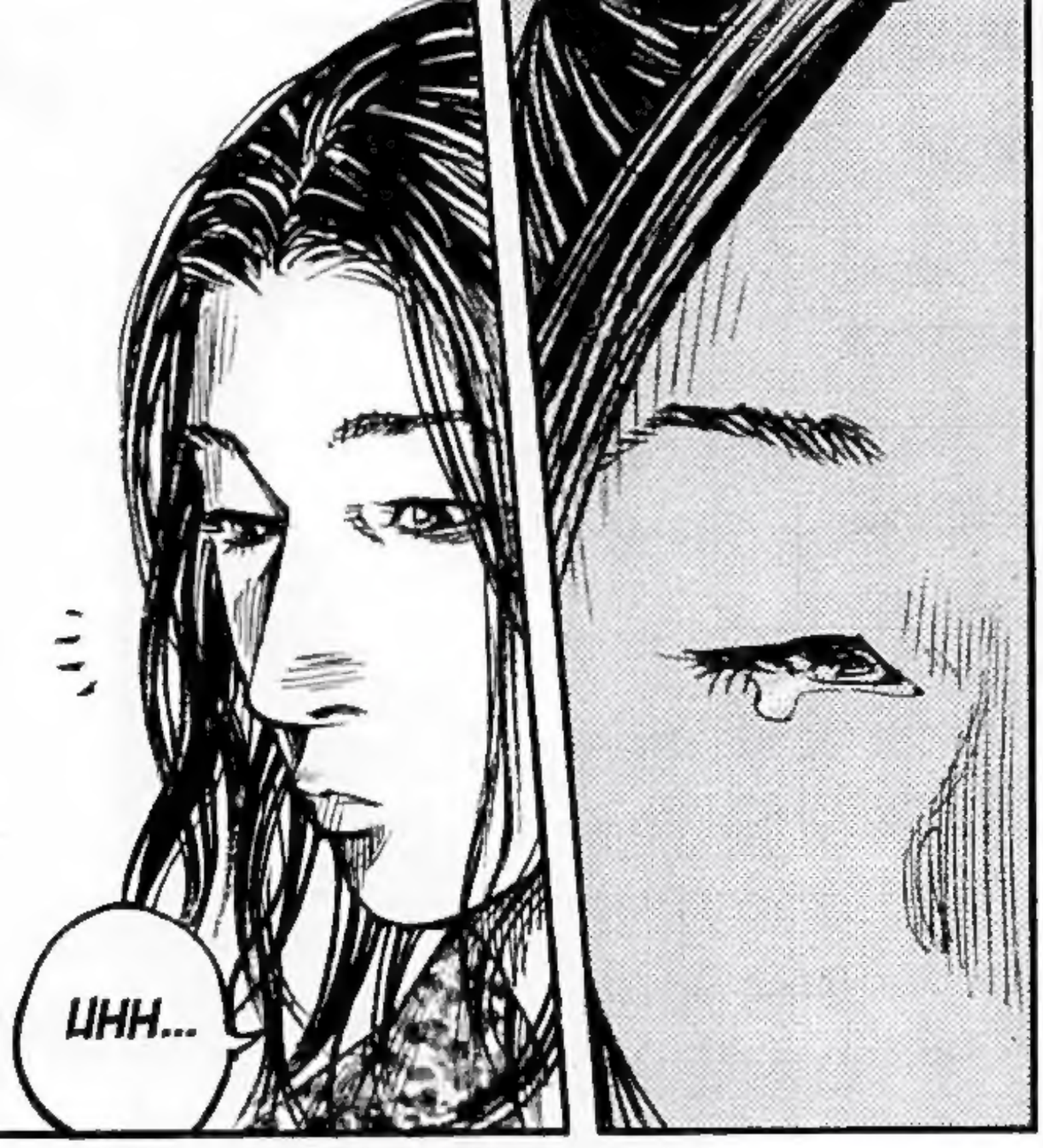
OR MAYBE THIS.

WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH YOU, GANRYŪ SENSEI?

#297

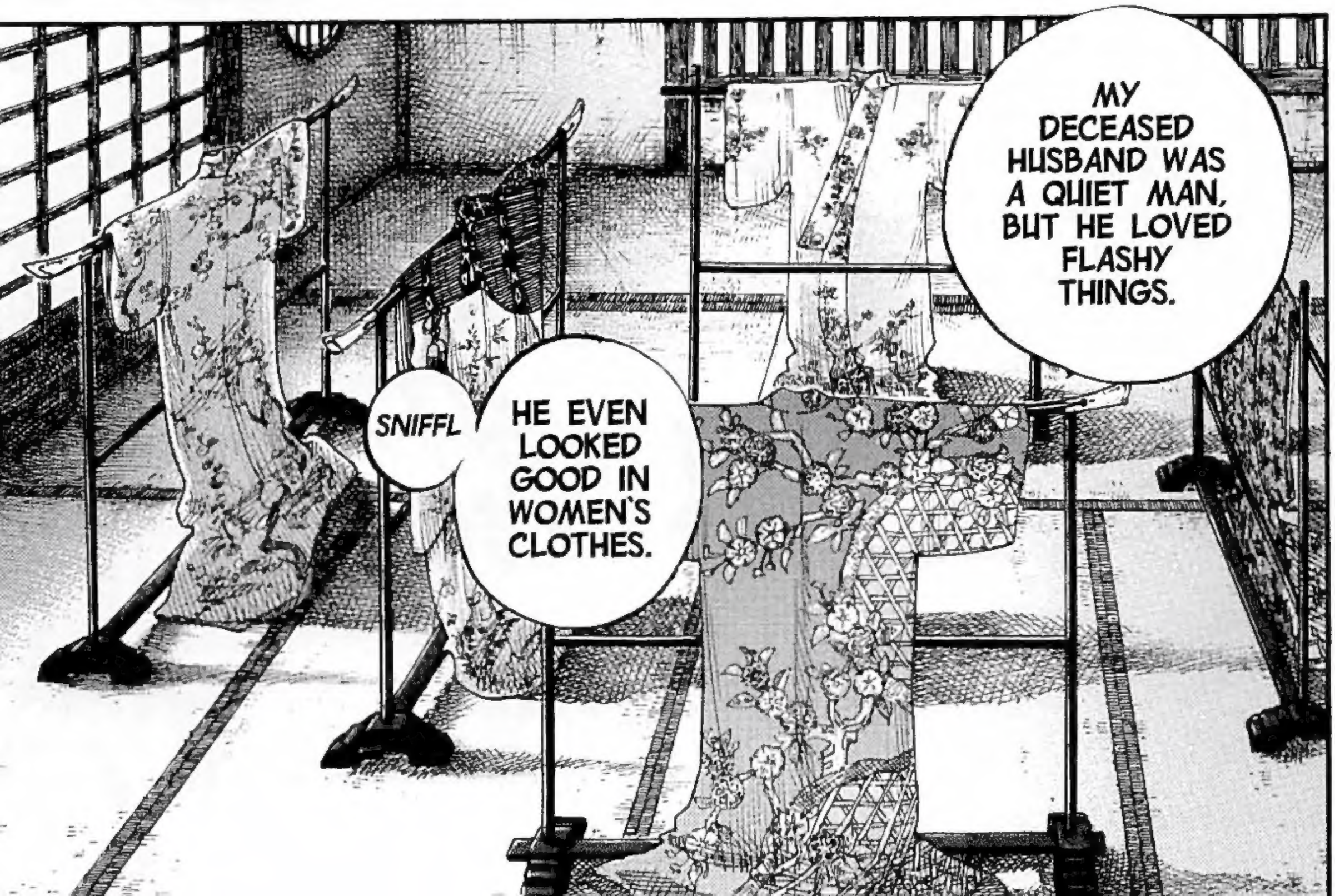
Too Flashy

AHH...
THEY ALL LOOK GOOD ON YOU.


UHH...

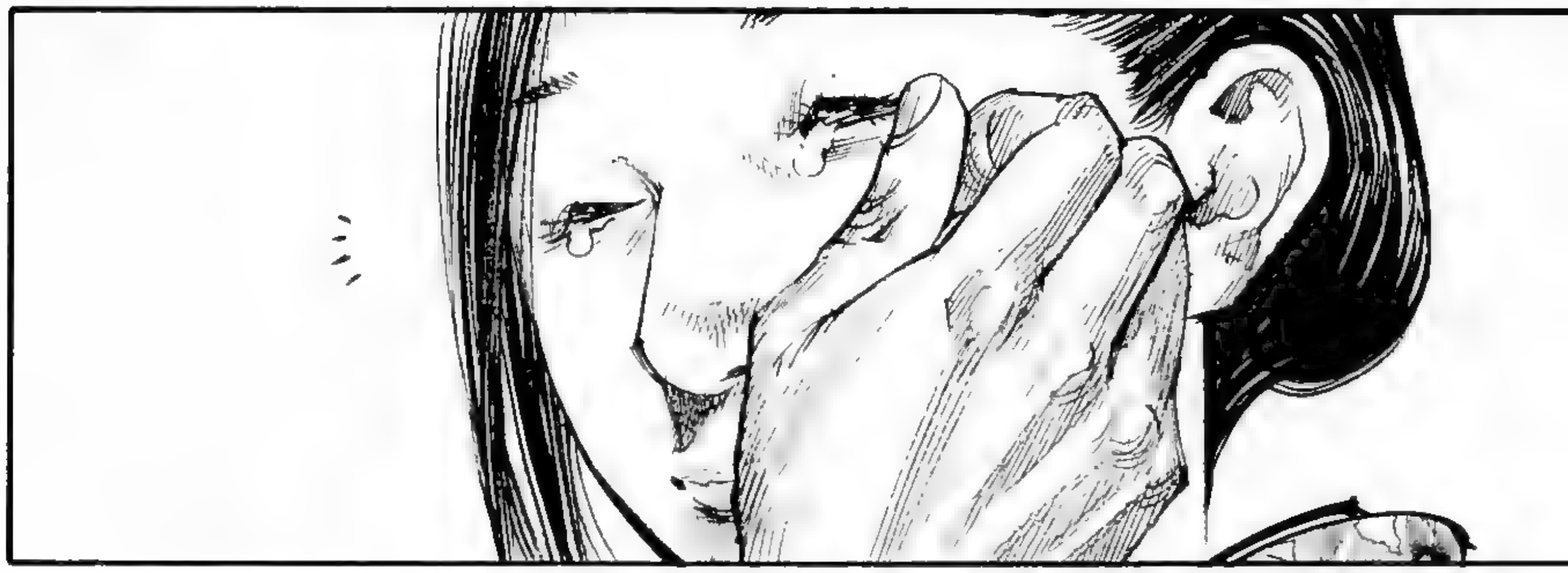
HA HA...

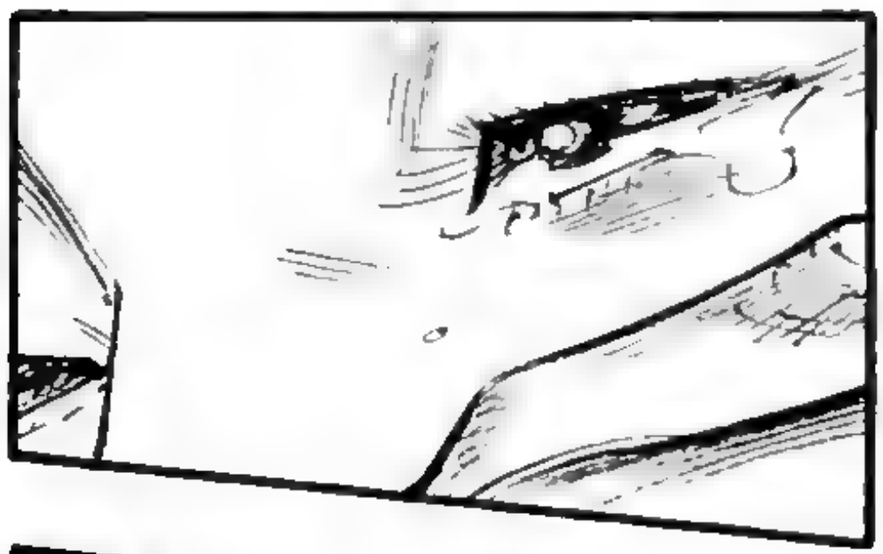
HA HA...
OH, I'M SO SORRY.


SNIFFL
HE EVEN LOOKED GOOD IN WOMEN'S CLOTHES.
MY DECEASED HUSBAND WAS A QUIET MAN, BUT HE LOVED FLASHY THINGS.

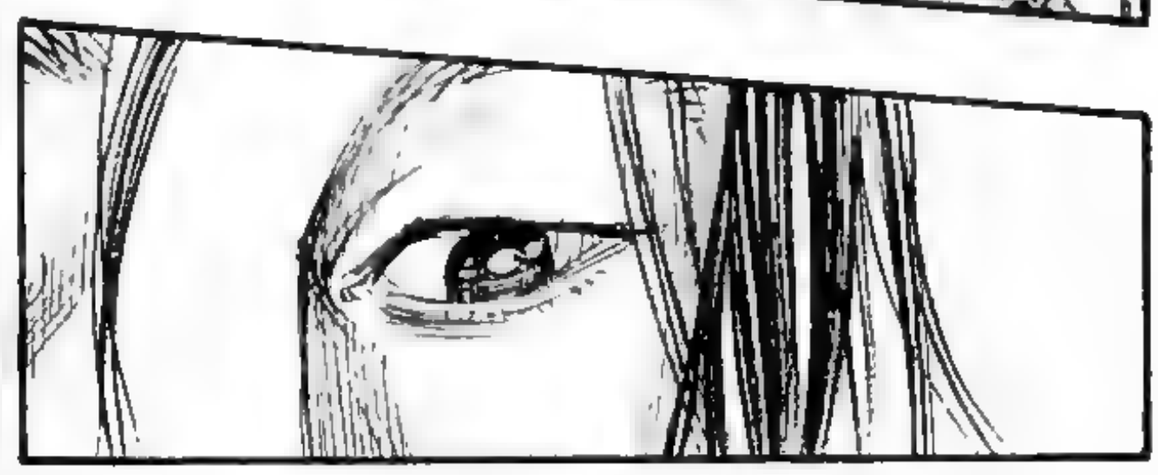
HE WAS NOTHING COMPARED TO YOU THOUGH...

HA HA...

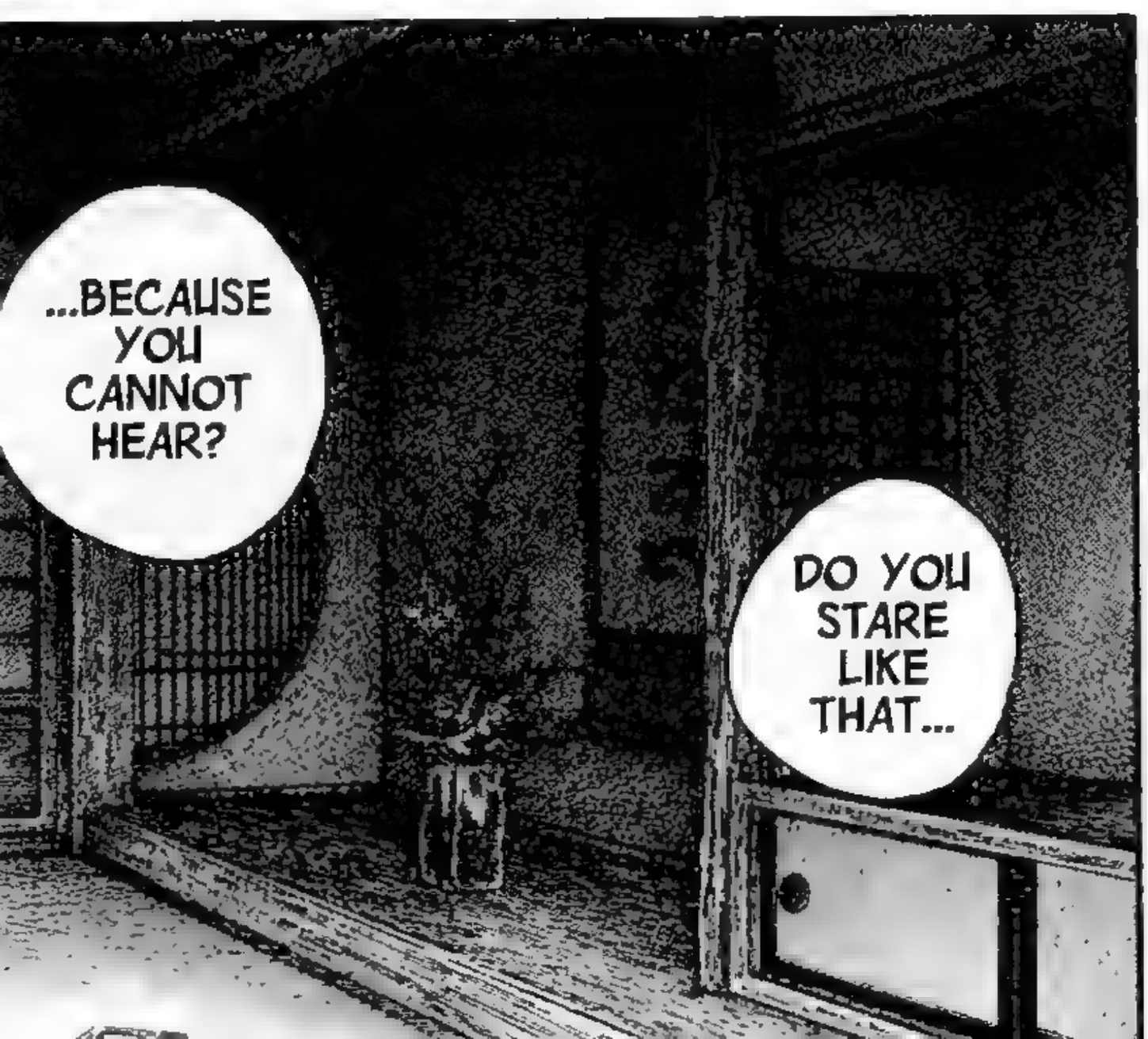




OH.
YOU...



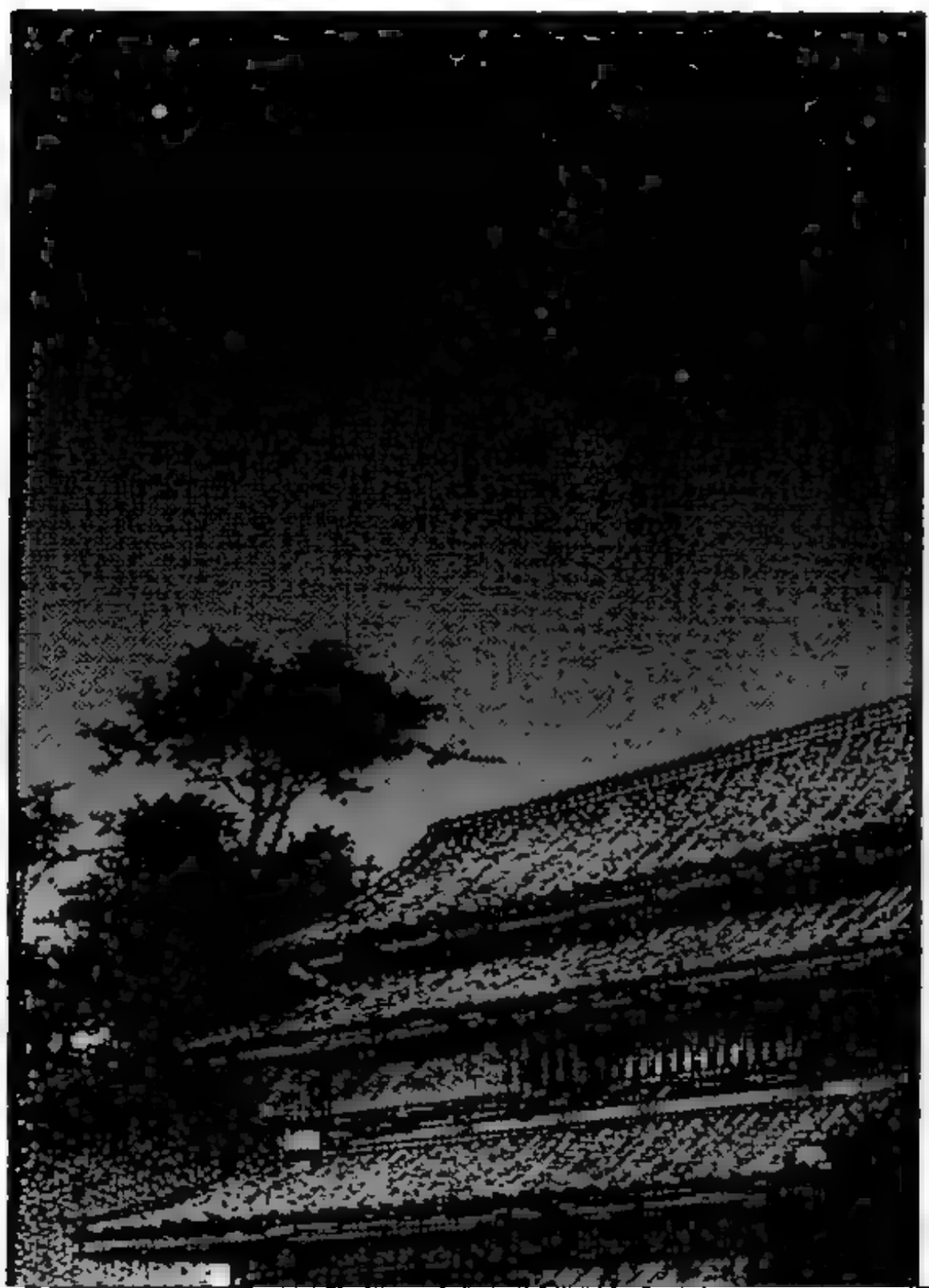
...

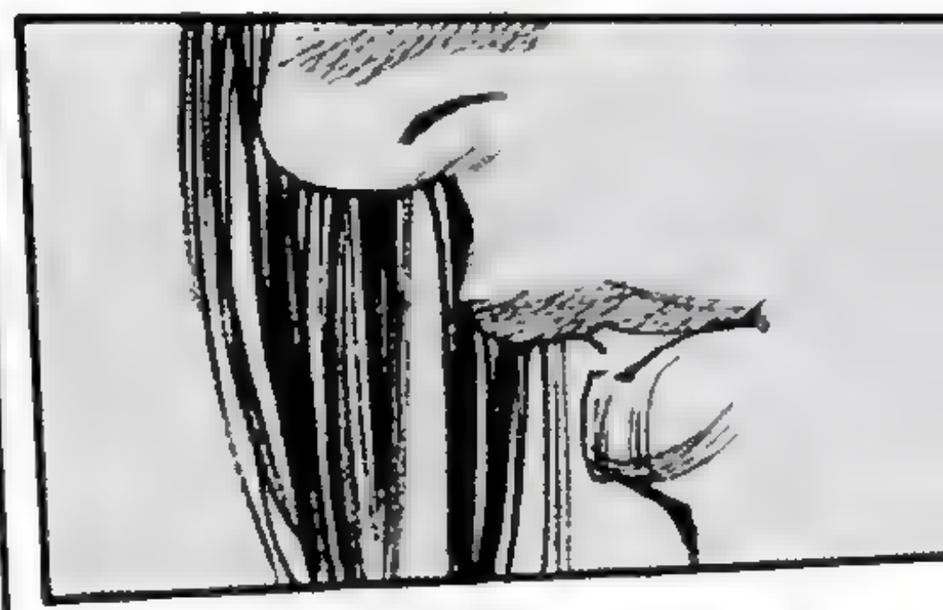

...BECAUSE YOU CANNOT HEAR?
DO YOU STARE LIKE THAT...

IT'S JUST THAT I AM EMBARRASSED...

NO USE ASKING...

...YOU CAN'T HEAR.



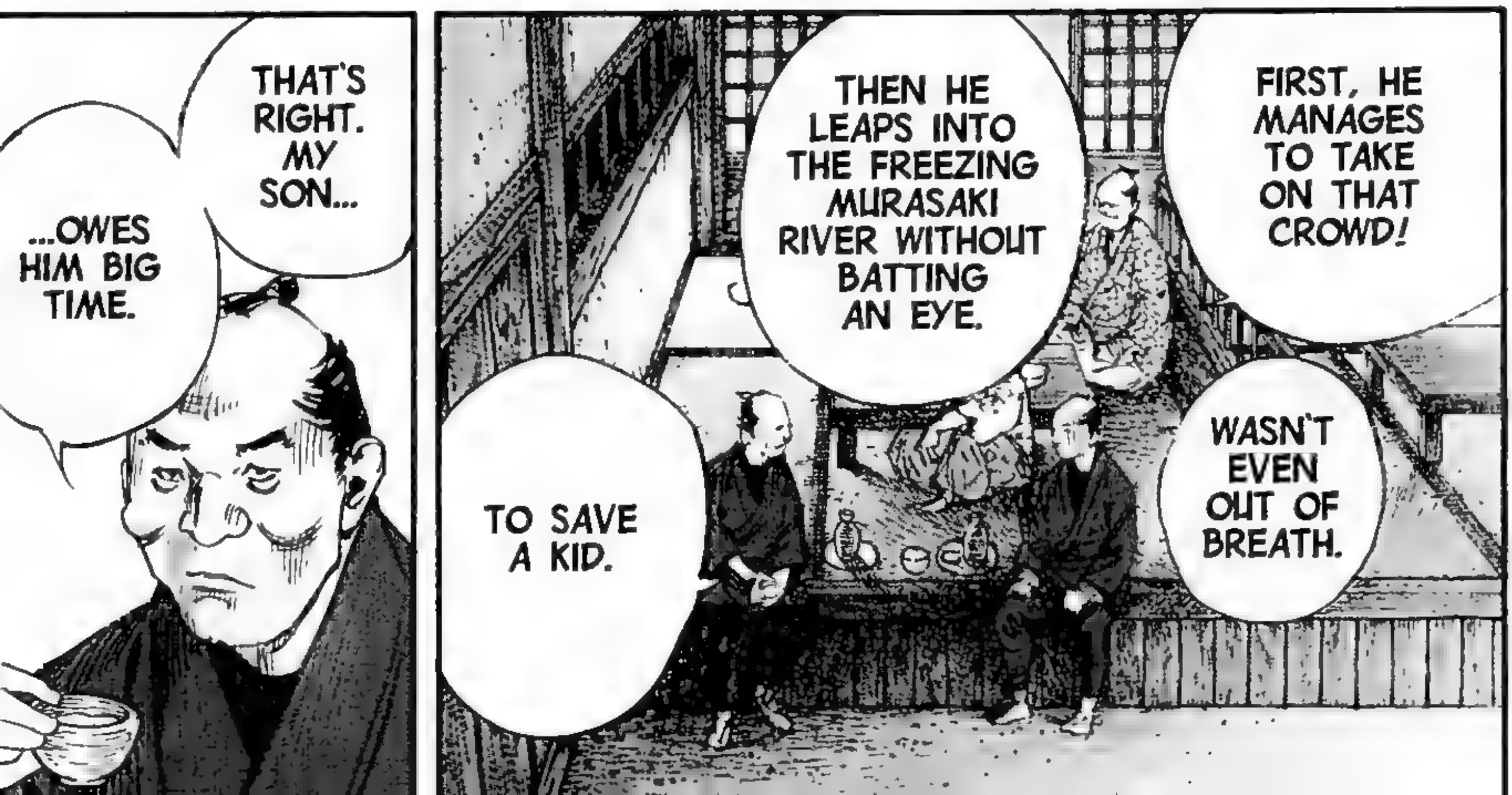


HE MAY BE A STRANGER, BUT I'M IMPRESSED.

MEN LIKE HIM...

...GIVE ME SOME HOPE IN THIS WORLD...

...



...

IN MY HOUSE, THEY WON'T STOP TALKING 'BOUT HIM.
HE'S GOT THOSE COOL, THIN EYES.

ONE OF A KIND.
WHAT'S ALL THIS FUSS!?
WE CAN BARELY AFFORD DRINKS HERE!
AH, GIVE ME A BREAK.
HE'S NOT LIKE US!
TELL ME ABOUT IT!

HUH?
SHE'S CRAZY ABOUT HIM?

I OWE HIM!
WHAT? HEY!
C'MON. IT'S HIS WIFE. SHE'S ACTING STRANGE.

HEY HEY.
WHAT'S GOING ON?

DON'T OVERRATE HIM. I DON'T LIKE HIM AT ALL.
HOW'S A DEAF SAMURAI GOING TO BE OF ANY USE?

BUT FOR THREE DAYS STRAIGHT SHE WON'T STOP POWDERING HER FACE!

SHE'S BEEN RESTLESS LATELY.

SHE SLEEPS WITH HER BACK TO ME.

HARDLY EVER PUTS ON MAKEUP.

I-IS THAT...
I-I'M SO SORRY FOR THE COMMO-TION.
...
THUNK
...!!
SAKE...
BRING ME ANOTHER BOTTLE

GULP

F W E E E

I'M SORRY...

...BUT IT'S CLOSING TIME.

Z Z Z Z

FICH

FICH

UMM...

HAHH.

SHE'S STILL UP...

...AH...

AHH...

...

...SISTER.

...!!

CAN I SLEEP HERE TONIGHT?

...SISTER.

HM...

AUHH

...

SCHNORR

SCHNORR

KOKURA CASTLE

THE HOSOKAWA FAMILY RULES OVER BUZEN KOKURA.

WELL, TADAOKI HAD HIM SINCE HE WAS A COLT.
I CAN SEE WHY, BUT...

HWEEN
SO HE'S UPSET...
...THAT TADAOKI LEFT HIM BEHIND.

YES.
THEN...

SO THEN...
IWAMA...

...I WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT TO YOU THE NEW SWORDSMANSHIP INSTRUCTOR WHO WILL BE REPLACING OGAWA.

GANRYŪ... SASAKI KOJIRŌ.

A BIT TOO FLASHY.

ARGH!
NEEE!

WHEEEN!
SNRRT!

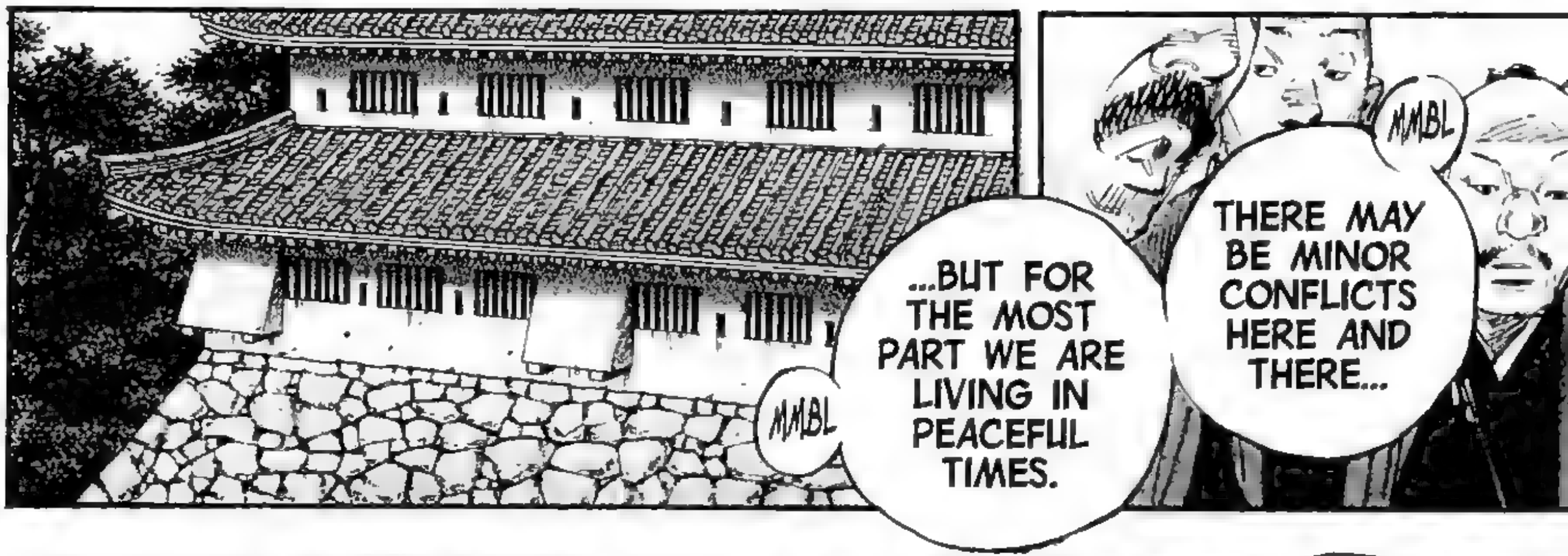
#298 | Instructor

GANRYŪ... SASAKI KOJIRŌ.

I HAVE HEARD THAT...

...HE IS DEAF.

HM... THAT'S COR-RECT.
"WE DON'T NEED A REPLACEMENT FIFTH INSTRUCTOR."
GLANCE
"IF OGAWA IS PUTTING DOWN THE SWORD, THEN FINE...
ARE YOU REFERRING TO WHAT UJIIE SAID?


MMBL
...BUT FOR THE MOST PART WE ARE LIVING IN PEACEFUL TIMES.
MMBL
THERE MAY BE MINOR CONFLICTS HERE AND THERE...

IN SUCH TIMES, FIVE INSTRUCTORS OF THE MARTIAL ARTS IS TOO MANY.
MMBL
THE COST COULD BE PUT TO BETTER USE.
HMM...
MMBL
...BUT NOW IT IS TIME WE REORIENT OURSELVES INWARD TO GOVERN OUR COUNTRY.
IN THE PAST, WE MAY HAVE DEDICATED OURSELVES TO WARFARE WITH BELLIGERENT FORCES FROM OUTSIDE...
MMBL

AND EXACTLY WHAT TYPE OF MAN IS THIS NEW CANDIDATE?

THIS IS TOO MUCH...

INDEED.

SO YOU OPPOSE OUR RECOMMENDATION?

...

N-NOT EXACTLY ...

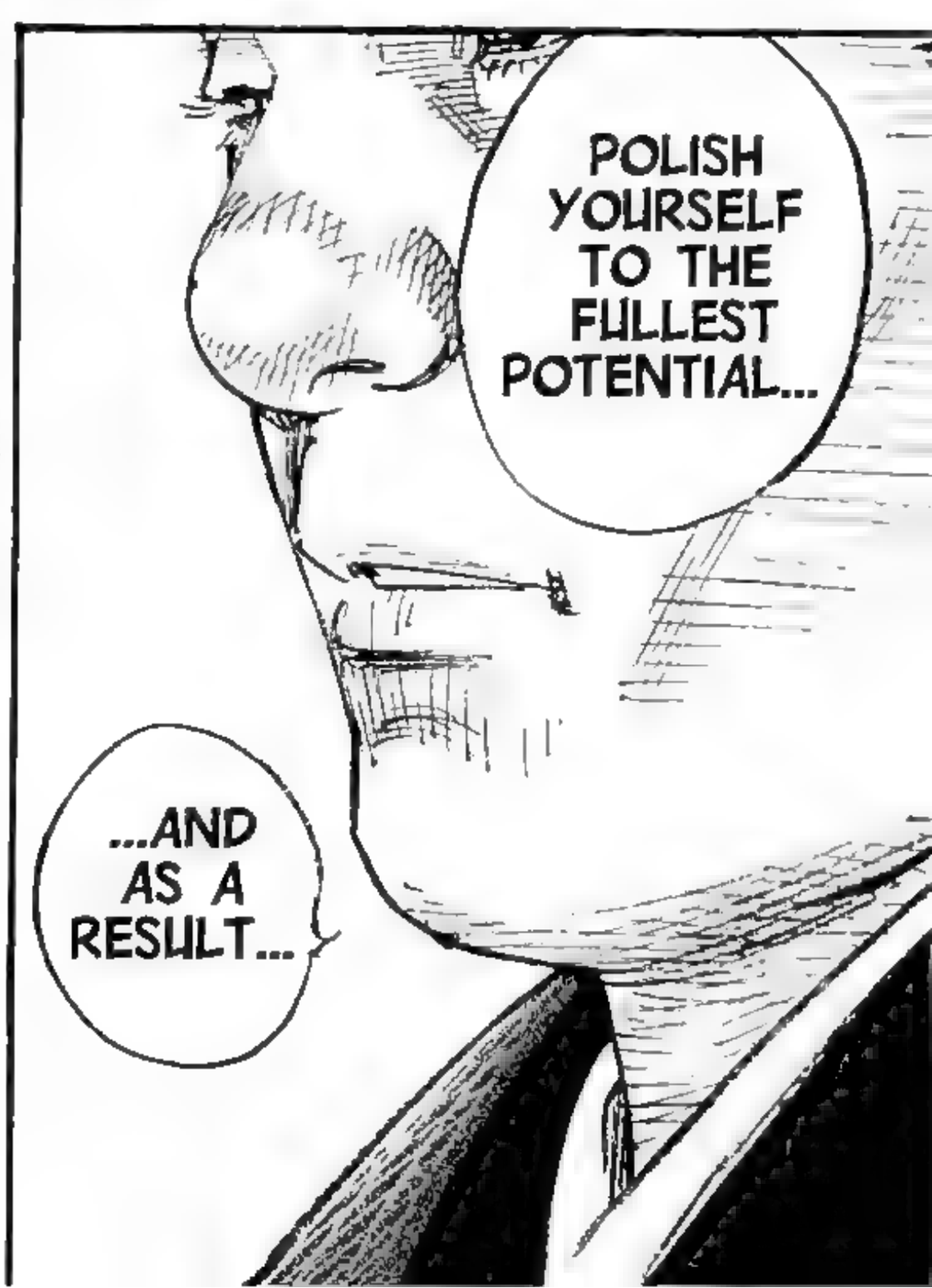
GHHP

HWEEEEN

AIEE!
SNRRT
OWW!
SHE BIT ME!

THE POINT OF SWORDSMANSHIP IS NOT TO LEARN HOW TO FIGHT.
LET ME SHARE A LESSON I LEARNED WHILE I WAS AT EDO.

...TRULY FIND YOURSELF.


POLISH YOURSELF TO THE FULLEST POTENTIAL...
...AND AS A RESULT...

THAT IS WHAT I LEARNED FROM THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE'S INSTRUCTOR, YAGYŪ MUNENORI.

...A DEAF INSTRUCTOR DOESN'T SOUND SO ABSURD TO ME.

HWEEEEEN

IN SUCH TIMES...

SUCH LESSONS WILL BE VITAL ALL THE MORE SO IN TIMES OF PEACE.

АННН--

HE BITES!
WATCH OUT!

...!!

PLIP

AHH--
SNRRT
PAT PAT
KOJIRŌ...

SHALL WE HAVE UJIIE RETIRE EARLY?

HUH...?!

IF FIVE INSTRUCTORS IS TOO MANY...

SHALL WE START ELIMINATING THE ELDEST?

HA HA

PLEASE, LET'S NOT BE RASH.

OH, NO! WE MUST TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION APTITUDE HERE...

I BELIEVE THEY ARE TEACHING AT THE TOWN DŌJŌ.

HMM, I SEE...

VERY WELL THEN... I HAVE AN IDEA.

WHERE IS UJIIE?

APTITUDE.

I'M SO SORRY.

WHAT DO YOU SAY, KOJIRŌ...?

FOUR INSTRUCTORS INCLUDING UJIIE SERVE THE HOSOKAWA FAMILY.

WILL YOU FIGHT THEM IN SUCCESSION?

...

WHERE AM I...?

WHAT TIME IS IT...?

HUH?

...

ZIING

URGH

ZIING ZIING ZIING

...

ZHOOP

LATE...

UJIIE SENSEI IS GOING TO SCOLD ME ONCE AGAIN.

...

...

OKAY.

PAT

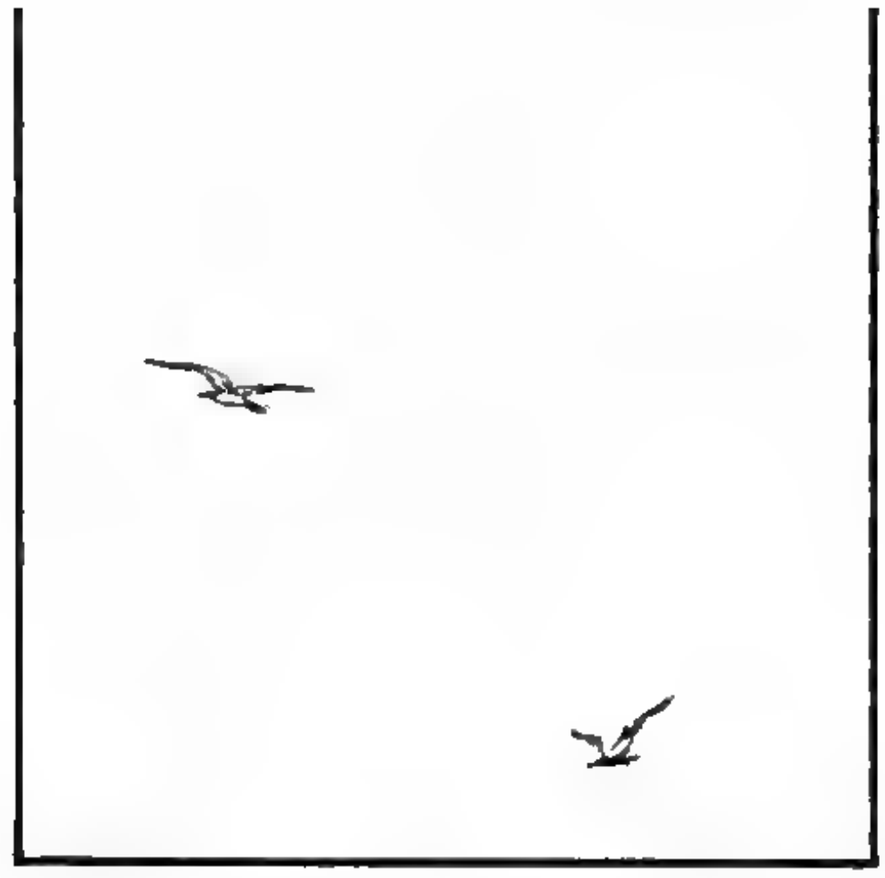
SNIF SNIF

PER-
FUME
SACK...

NOW
GO.

OH,
WAIT.

THIS
IS FOR
YOU.



THE SMELL OF MY SISTER.
HMM

HUF
HUF
HUF
...

SNIF
SNIF

FSH
FSH
FSH
...

YOU ...
YOU DROPPED SOME-THING.
HEY...
TP
HM...?
HEY!!

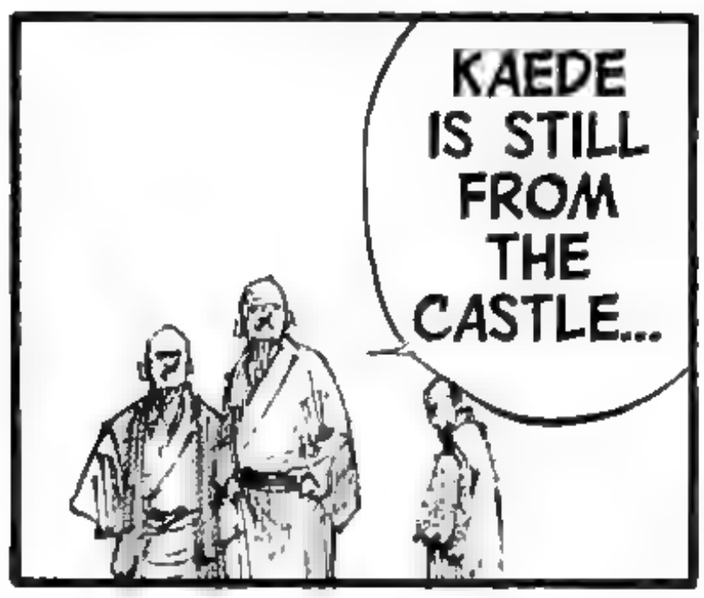
THE ODOR OF SAKE...

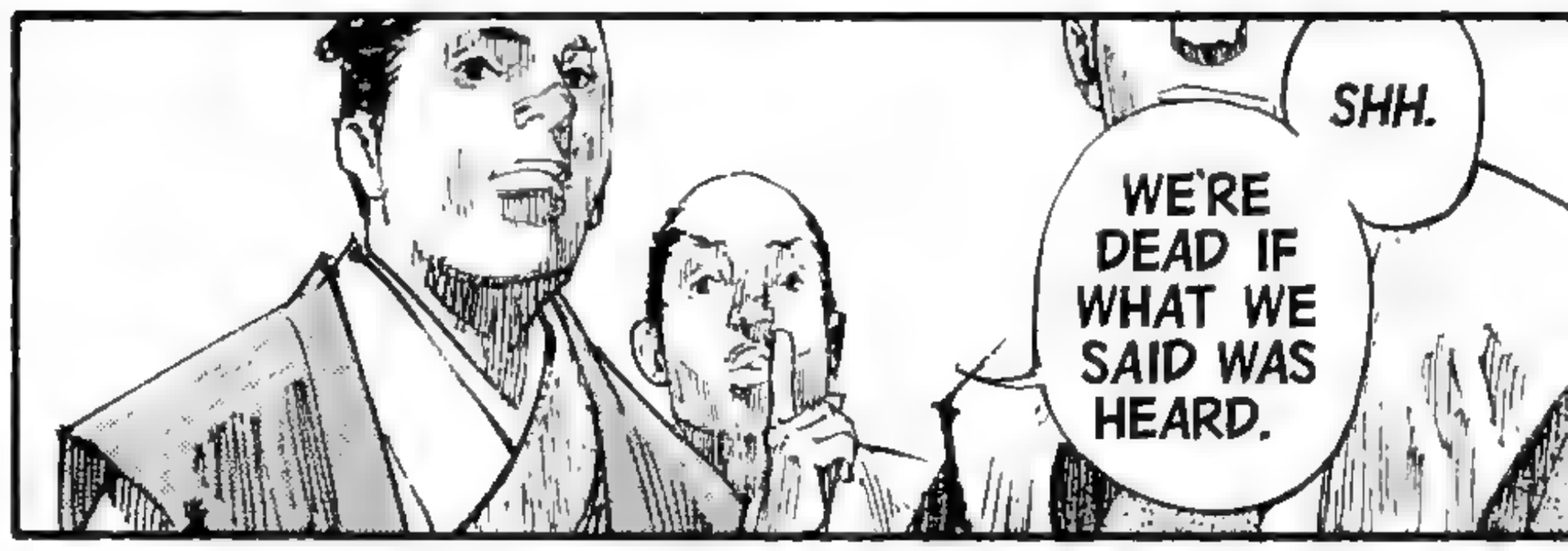
...AND SWEAT MIXED TOGETHER.

IT'S KAEDE.

KAEDE.

IT STINKS.





?

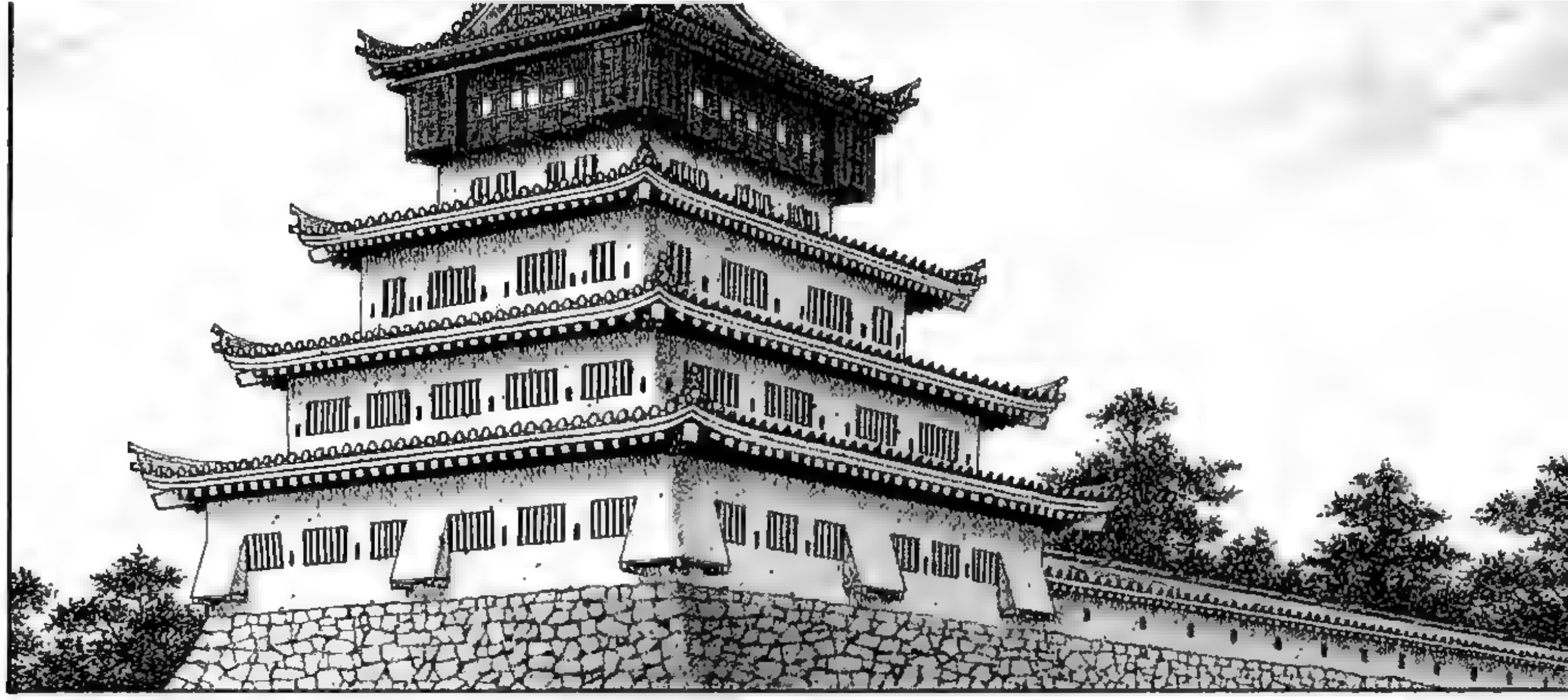
HUF

HUF

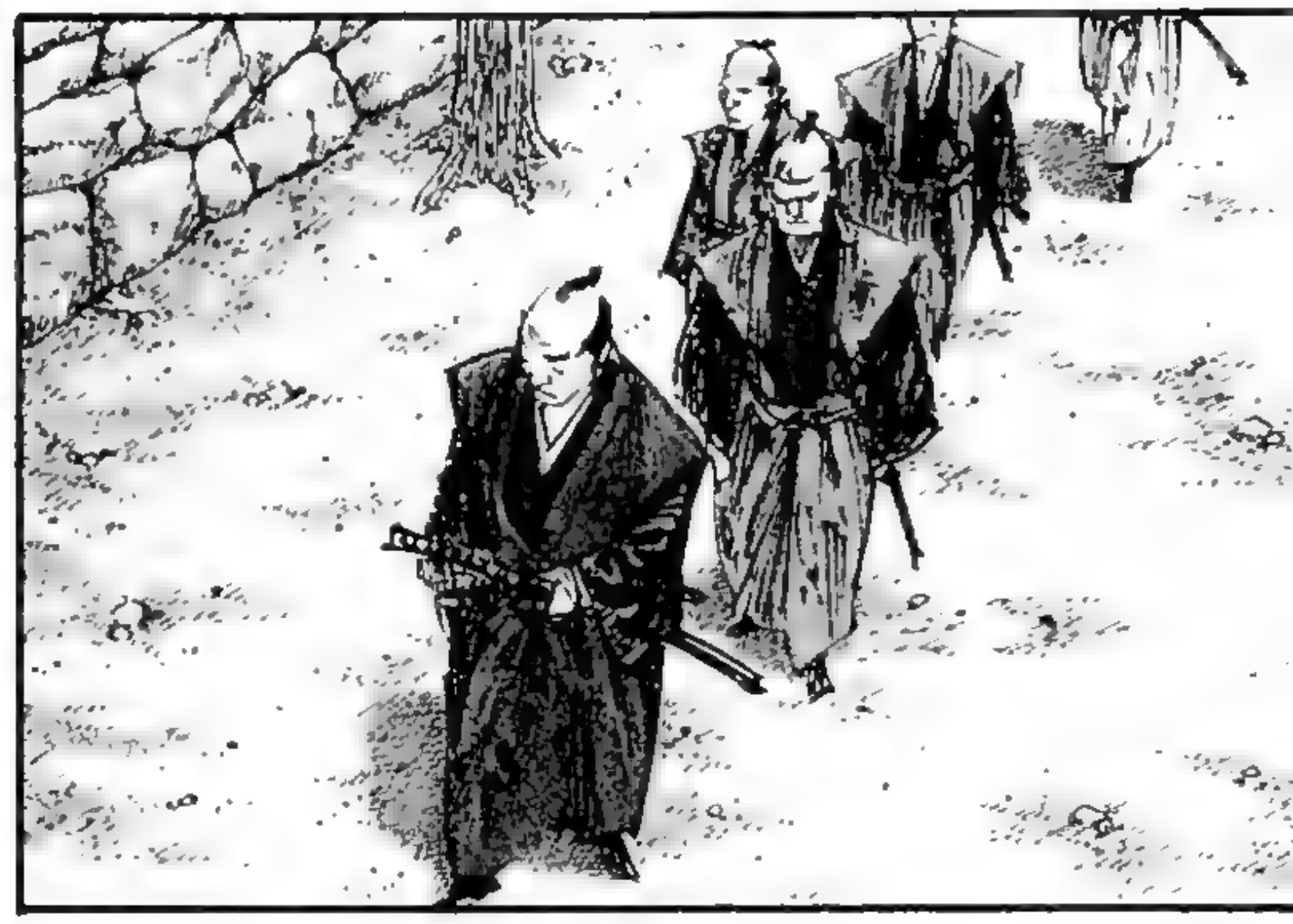
A MATCH?

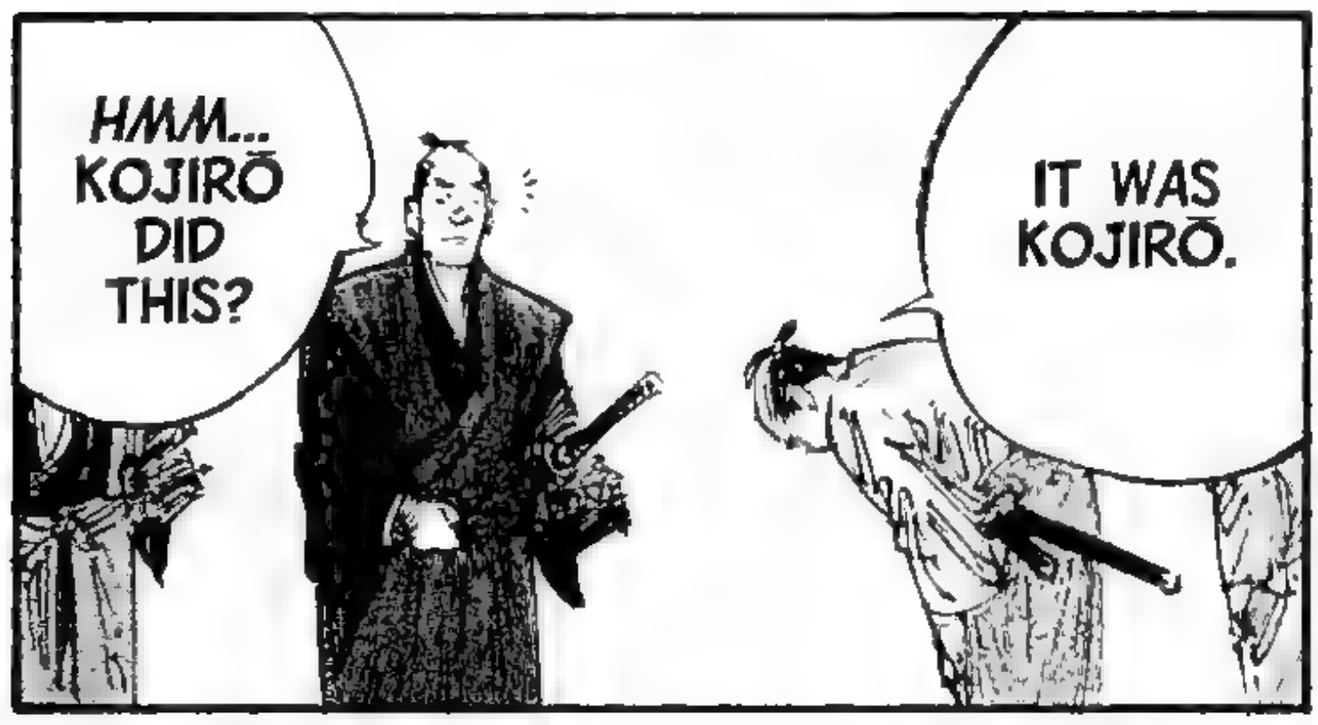
Vagabond

#299 | Doryū

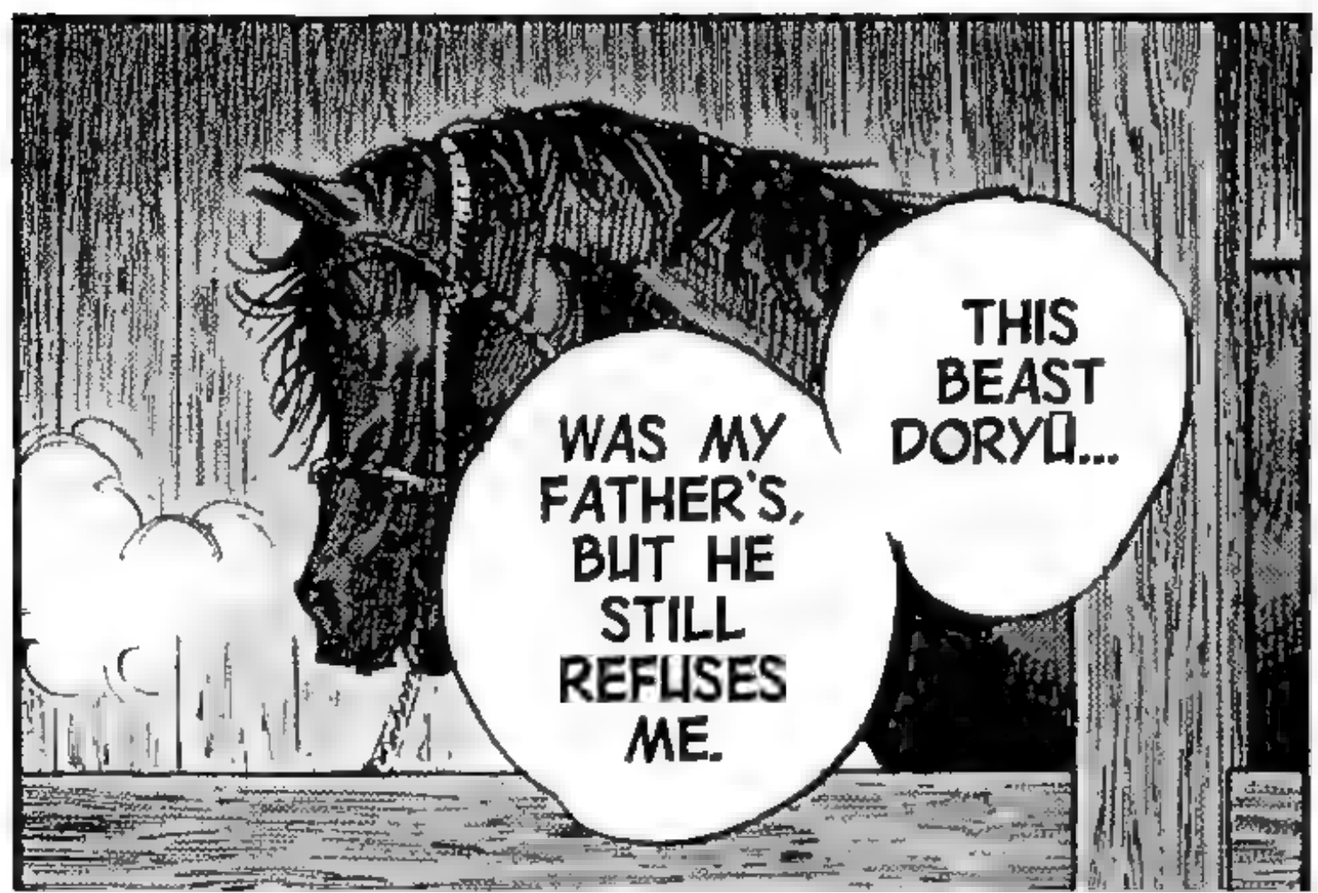


HM?



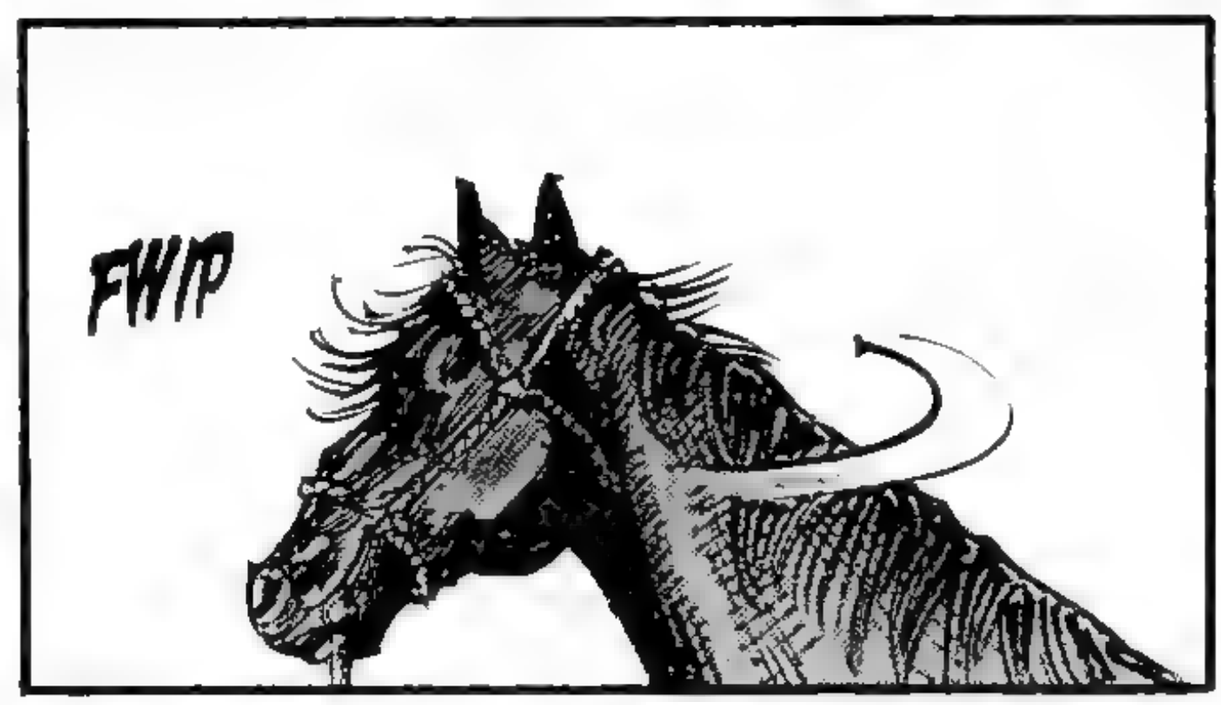

HMM... KOJIRŌ DID THIS?
IT WAS KOJIRŌ.

WHO DID THIS?
WHO HARNESSED THIS WILD HORSE?


THIS BEAST DORYŪ...
WAS MY FATHER'S, BUT HE STILL REFUSES ME.

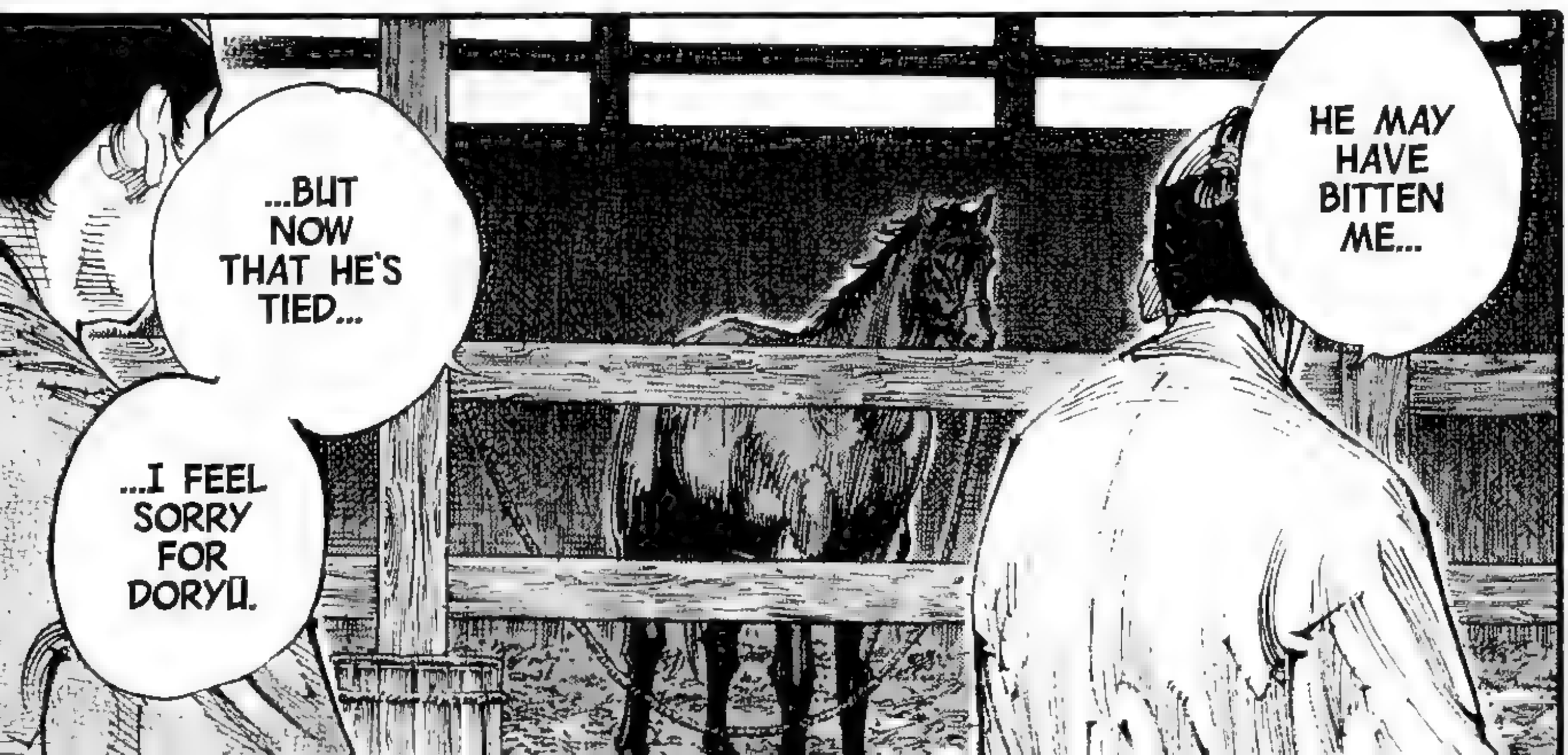
WELL...
...I WAS AWAY A VERY LONG TIME, SO I SUPPOSE IT'S TO BE EXPECTED.

...

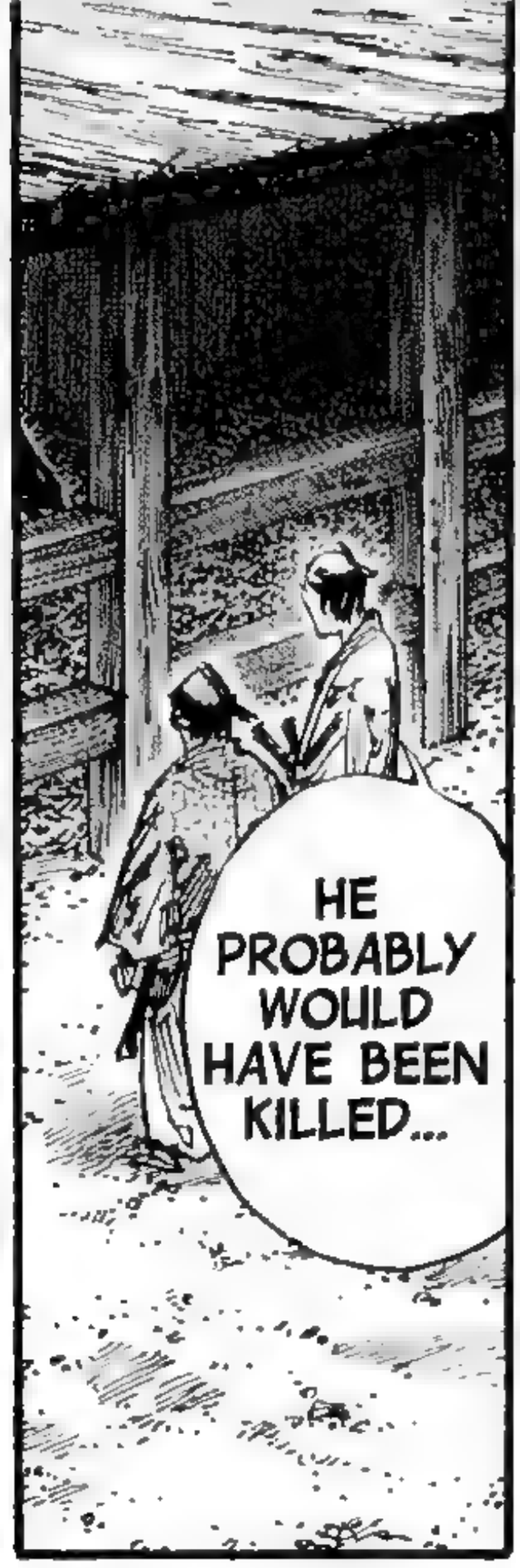

FWIP

...

HOW'S THAT ARM BITE?
IT WAS ONLY A SCRATCH, SIR.
NOTHING REALLY.


...BUT NOW THAT HE'S TIED...
...I FEEL SORRY FOR DORYU.
HE MAY HAVE BITTEN ME...

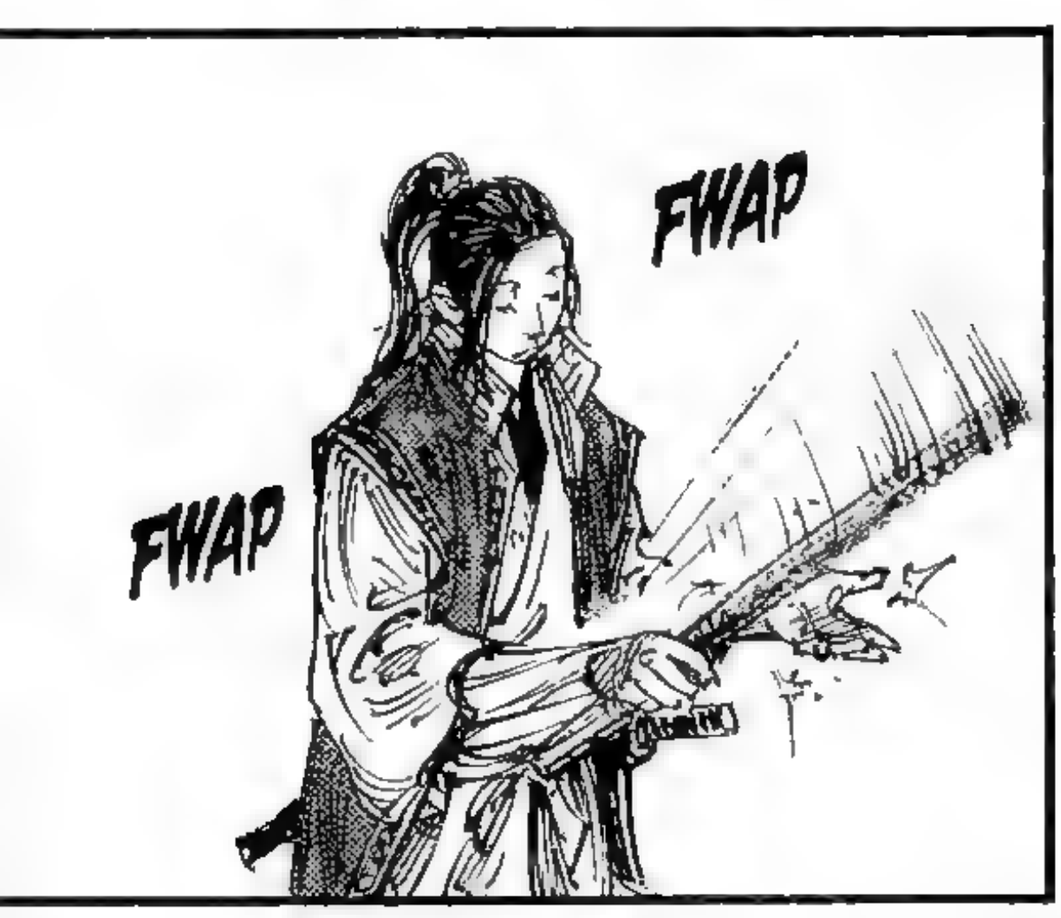
...HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR KOJIRŌ.


HE PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED...

HIS NAME MEANS EARTH DRAGON, BUT CAN ALSO BE READ AS "MOLE"...
A NAME FATED TO NEVER SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY.
AND A HORSE THAT BITES PEOPLE.

HE DIDN'T LOVE YOU.
...BUT THE FEELING WASN'T MUTUAL.
TADAOKI WAS THE ONE AND ONLY MASTER FOR YOU...

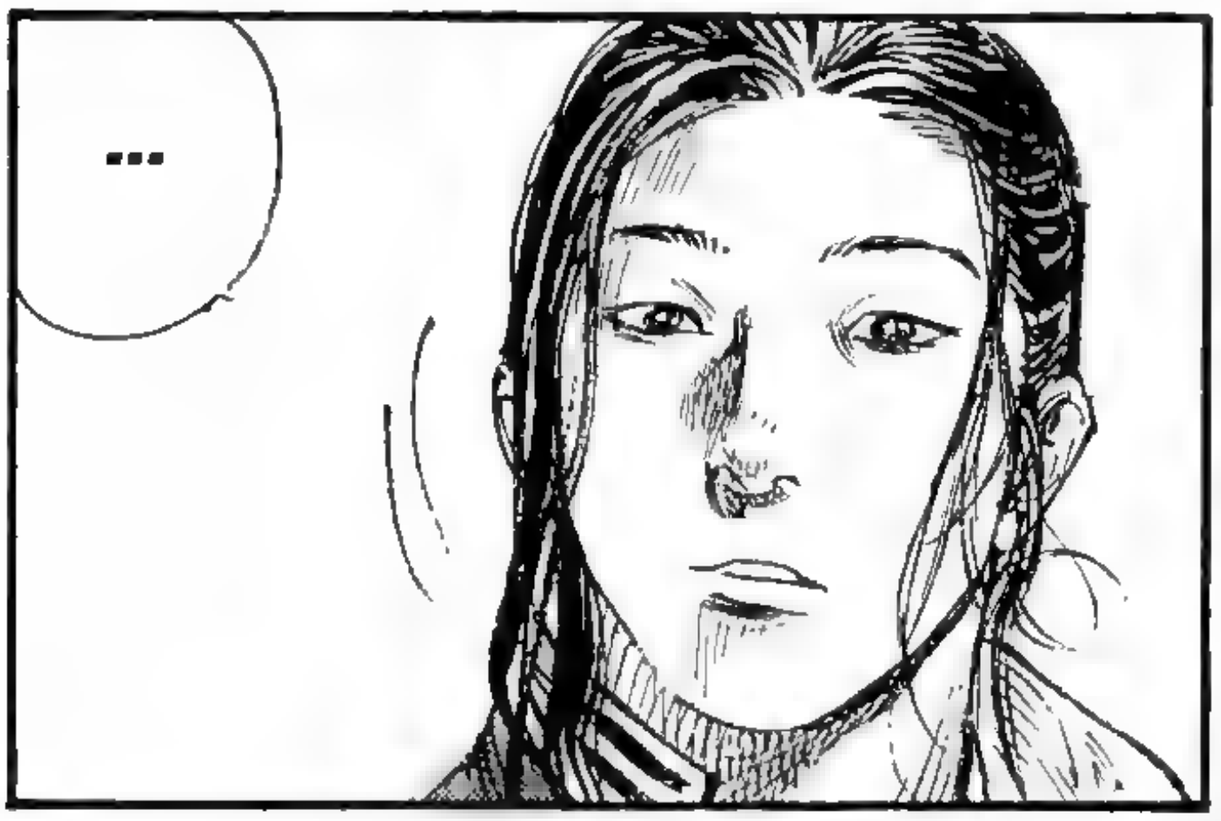
YOU MUST FEEL LONELY.


FWAP
FWAP

...

OWW

BUT YOU CAN'T HEAR...
READ THIS.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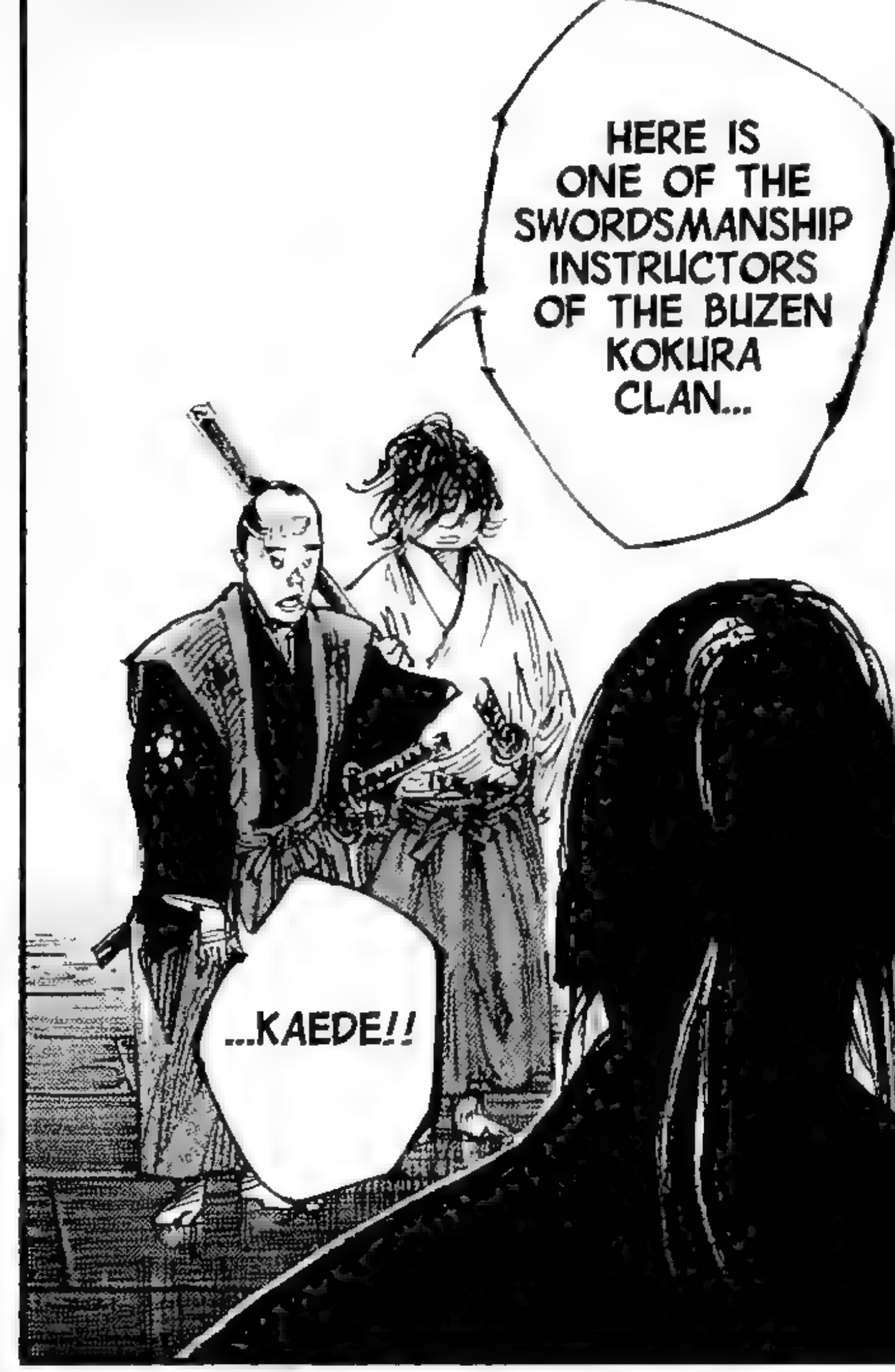

HERE IS ONE OF THE SWORDSMANSHIP INSTRUCTORS OF THE BUZEN KOKURA CLAN...
...KAEDE!!

HAIR LIKE A BIRD'S NEST.
HA HA.
LOOKS LIKE A GHOST.
THAT BODY ODOR.

I-I DROPPED IT...
ZMMPH

WHAT'S GOING ON?
GOT AN ITCH?

HUH...
WHERE'D IT GO?
IT'S GONE.

...THE PERFUME SACK...

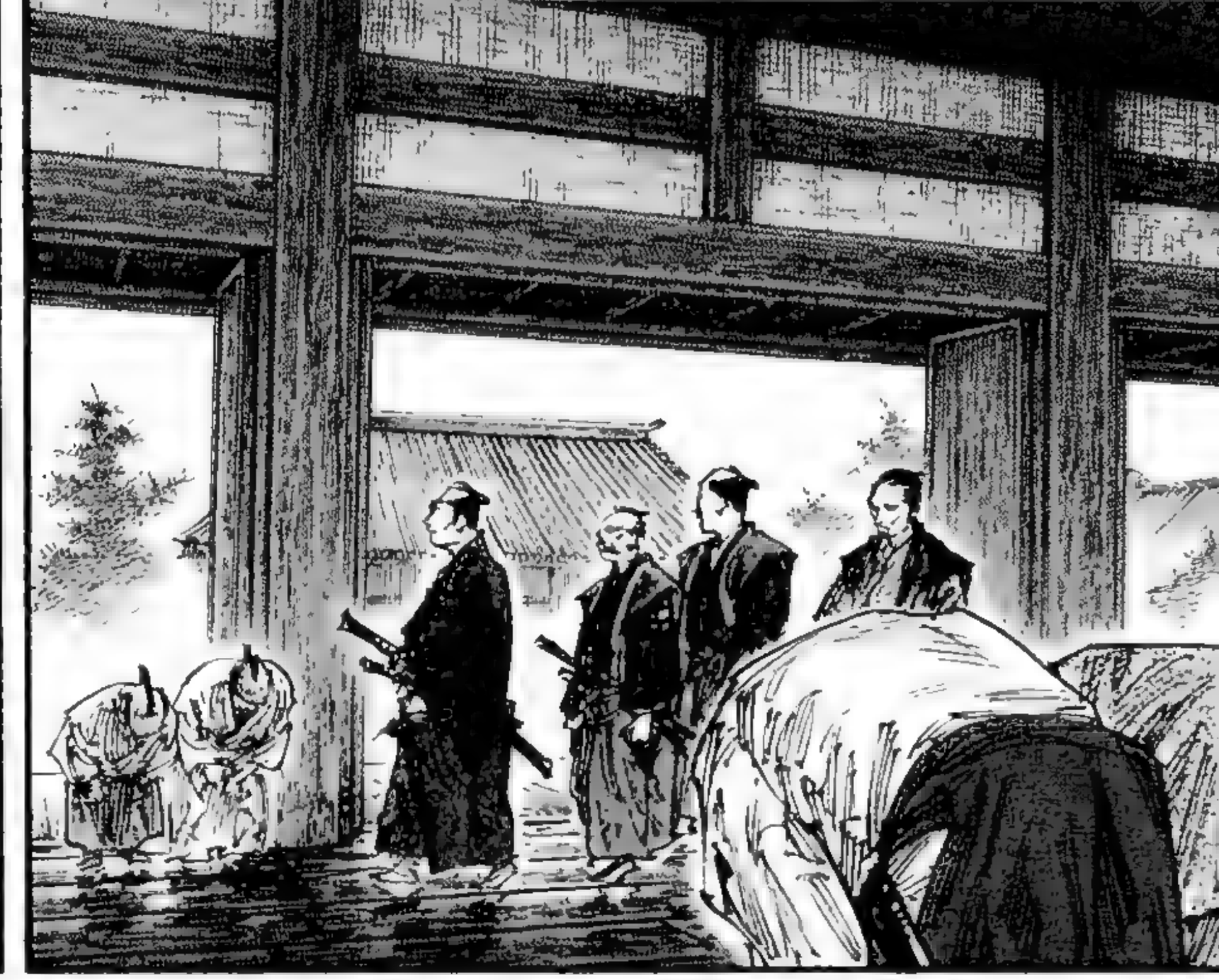
NOT SUITABLE TO BE IN THE CASTLE, LET ALONE BE AN INSTRUCTOR!
BUT LINEAGE AND SKILLS CARRY OVER.
OUT DRINKING AGAIN.
AND LATE.

HA HA.
HUH ...?!

...KAEDE MIGHT GET ATTACKED BY THAT CRAZY SWORDSMAN WHO'S BEEN ROAMING AROUND.
NAH, EVEN THAT GUY WOULD STAY AWAY FROM KAEDE.

WANDER-ING ROUND THAT LATE IN TOWN...

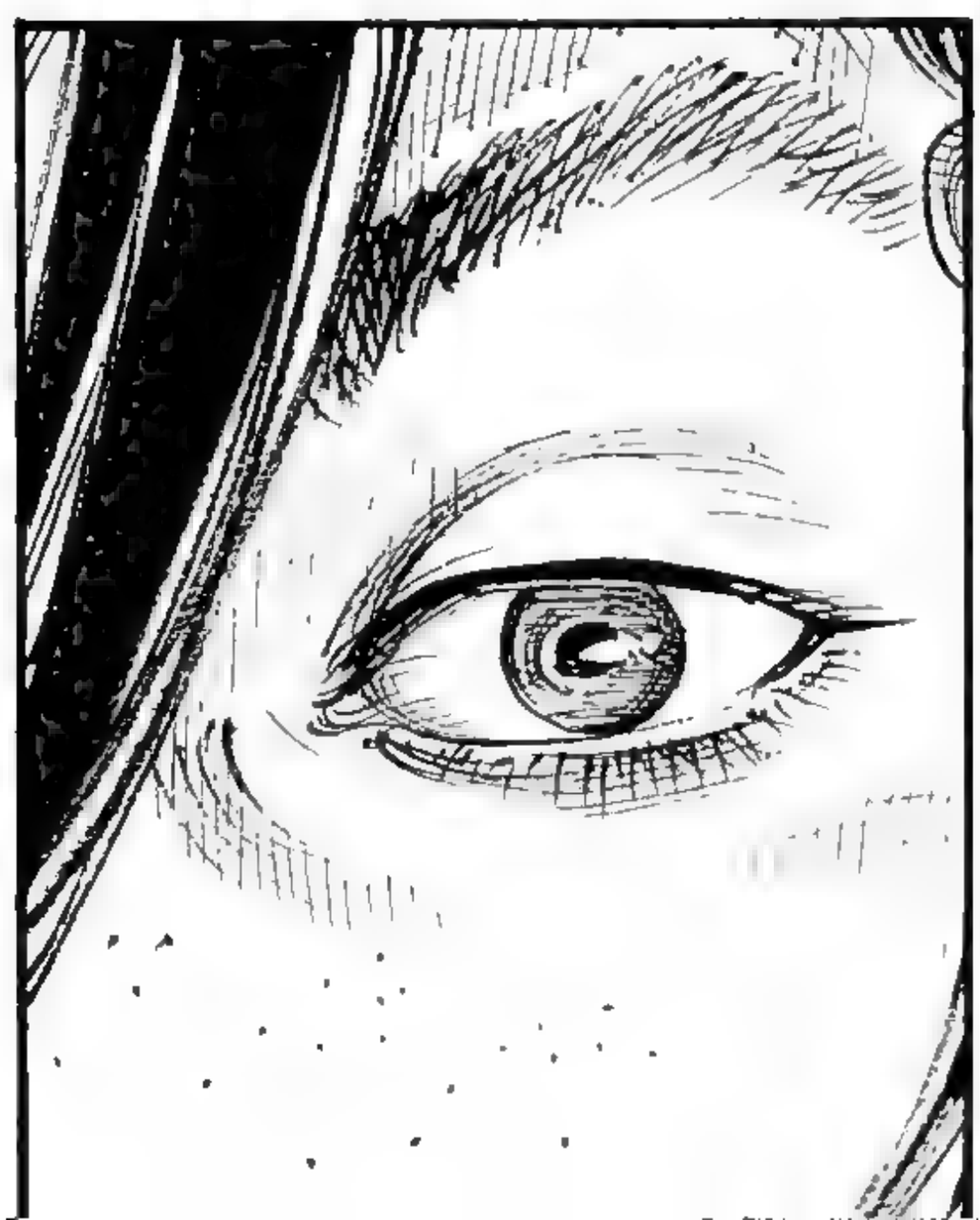
NOW THEN!



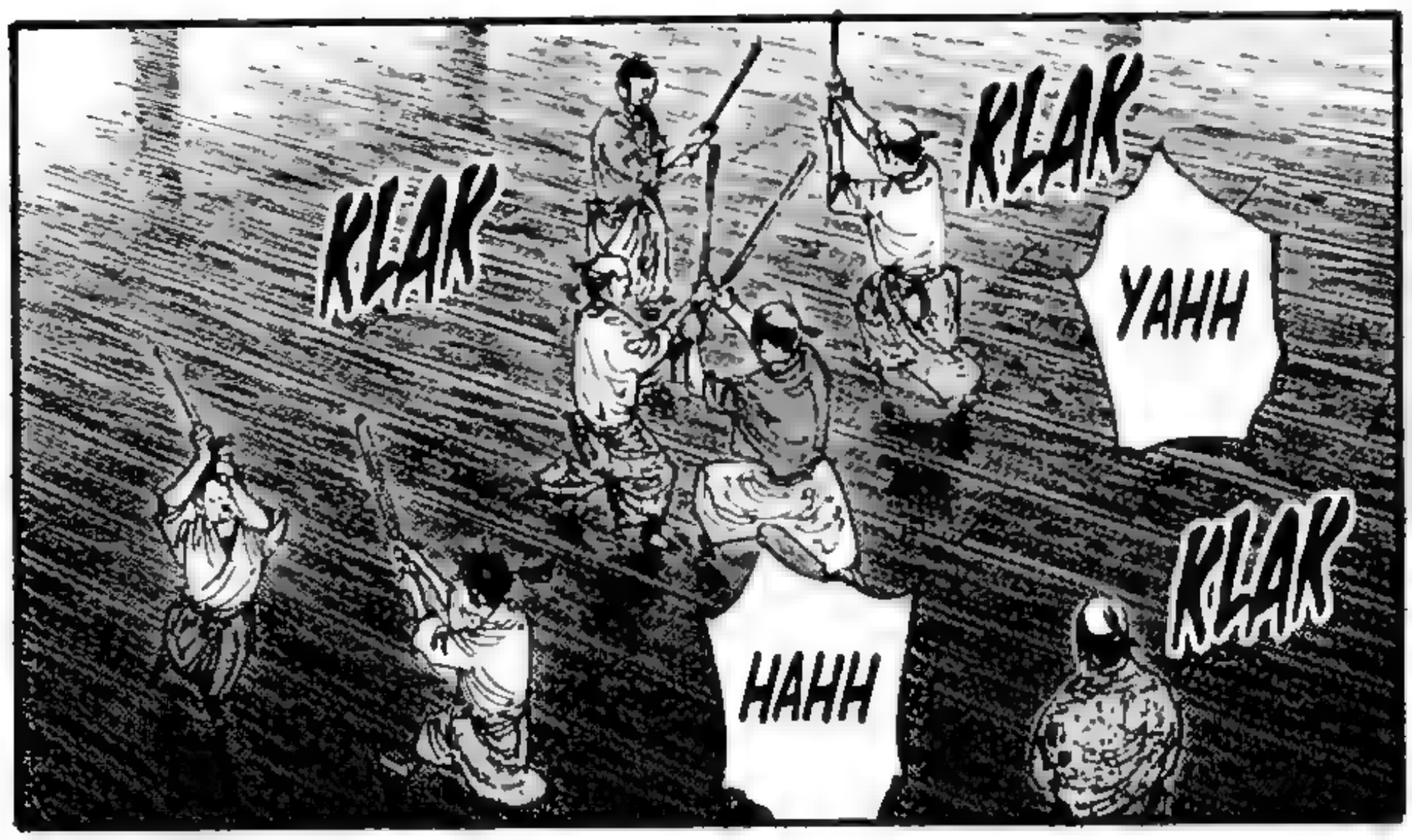
...

PRETTY BOY?

KAEDE!
HE MAY BE A PRETTY BOY, BUT DON'T TAKE IT EASY ON HIM!



BEGIN!!


KLAK
KLAK
YAHH
HAHH
KLAK

KLAK
KLAK

GET IN LINE!
ALL RIGHT, THAT'S IT FOR TODAY!

SILENCE!

ALL RIGHT.
BOW...
...FOR-WARD.
BOW TO...
UJIIE SENSEI.

I WISH THAT GANRYŪ KOJIRŌ SENSEI WOULD COME AND TEACH US SOON!

SUGA SENSEI...

HOW STRONG IS GANRYŪ SENSEI?

I DON'T KNOW. I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM.

HE'S SUPPOSED TO ARRIVE TODAY.

I'M SURE HE'S STRONG!

I MEAN, HE TOOK ON OVER TWENTY MEN AT TOSAWA BRIDGE!

YOU, HEAD MASTER OF MARTIAL ARTS INSTRUCTION...

UJIIE SENSEI...

...HAVE SOMETHING TO LEARN?

I LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING HIM.

HE WILL HAVE MUCH TO TEACH US.

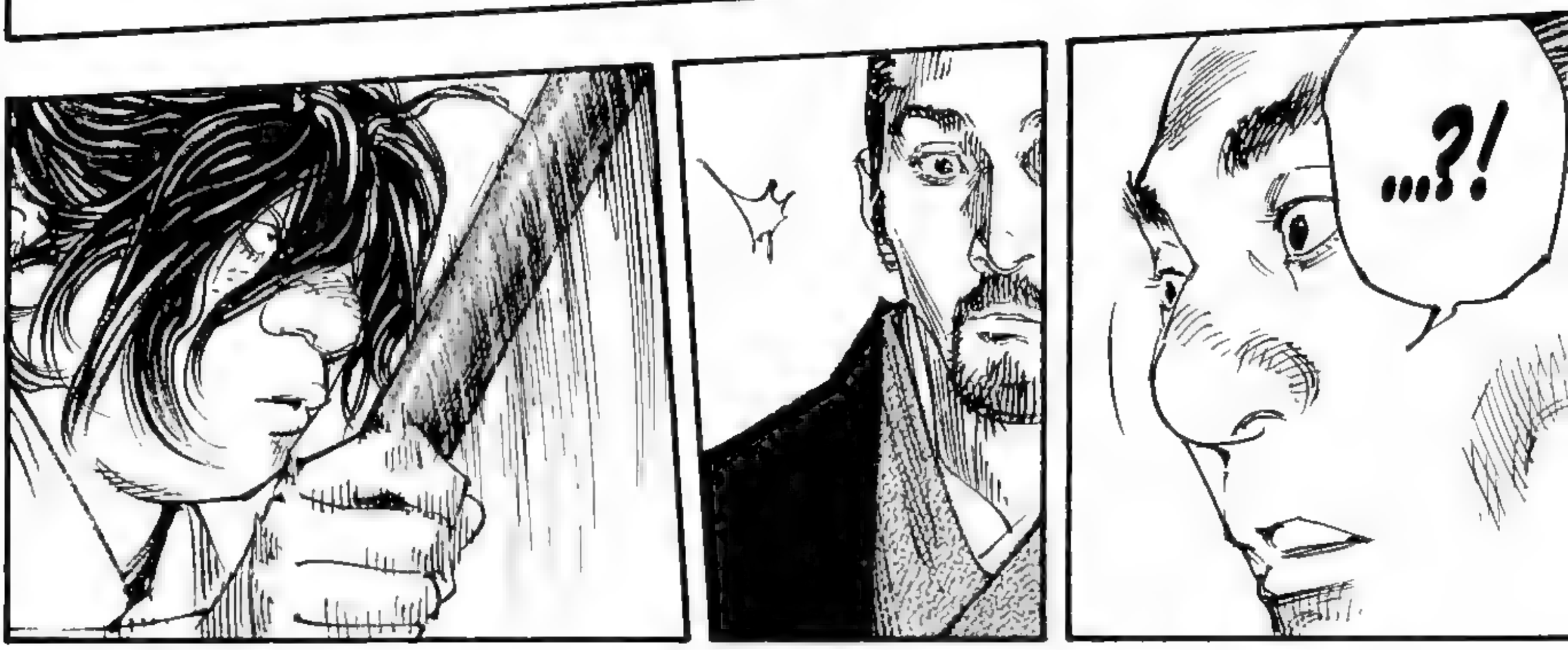
THANK YOU, SIR!

ALWAYS SOMETHING TO LEARN...

...THE PRETTY BOY FROM LAST NIGHT!
THAT'S...

FUP

FUP



?!

TUGG

FWIP
...
AHHH
...!!

HAHH
THUNK

...!!

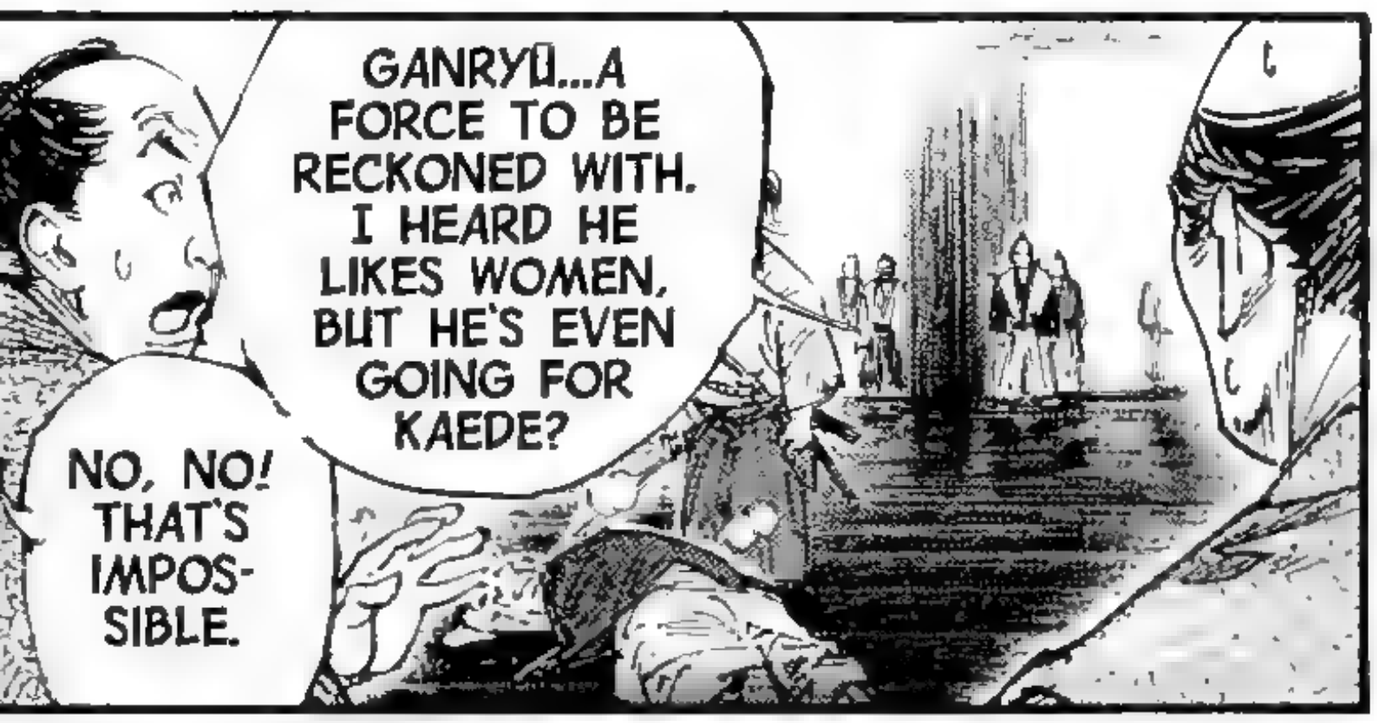
WHUDD

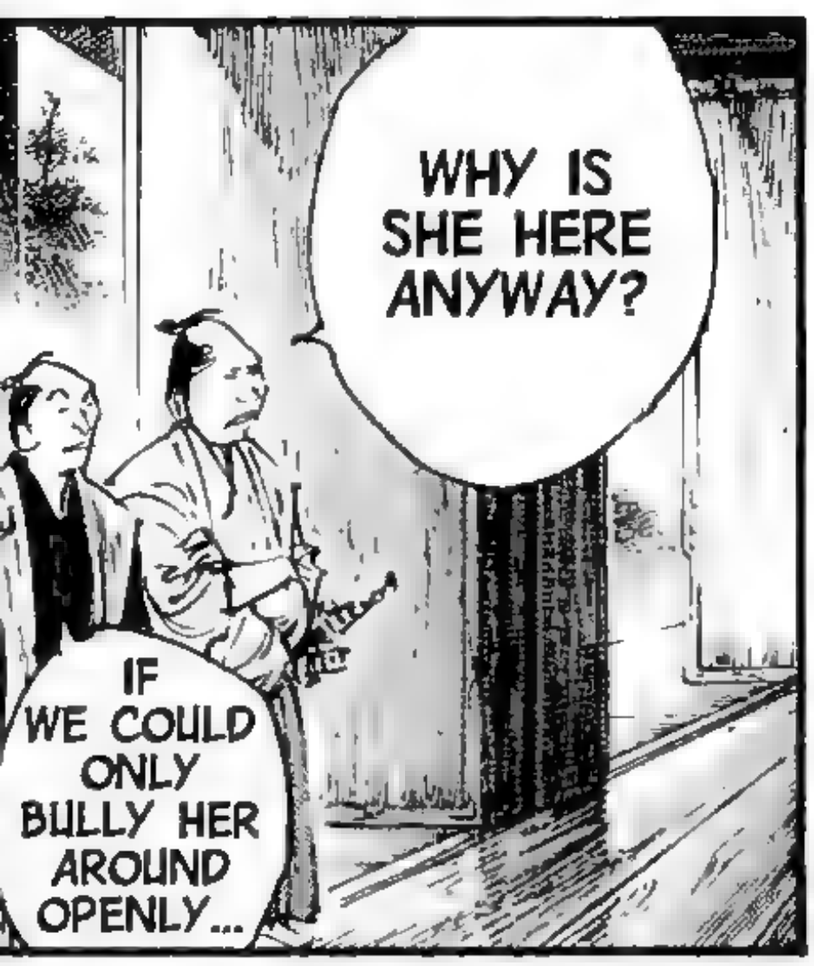
MY,
OH MY...

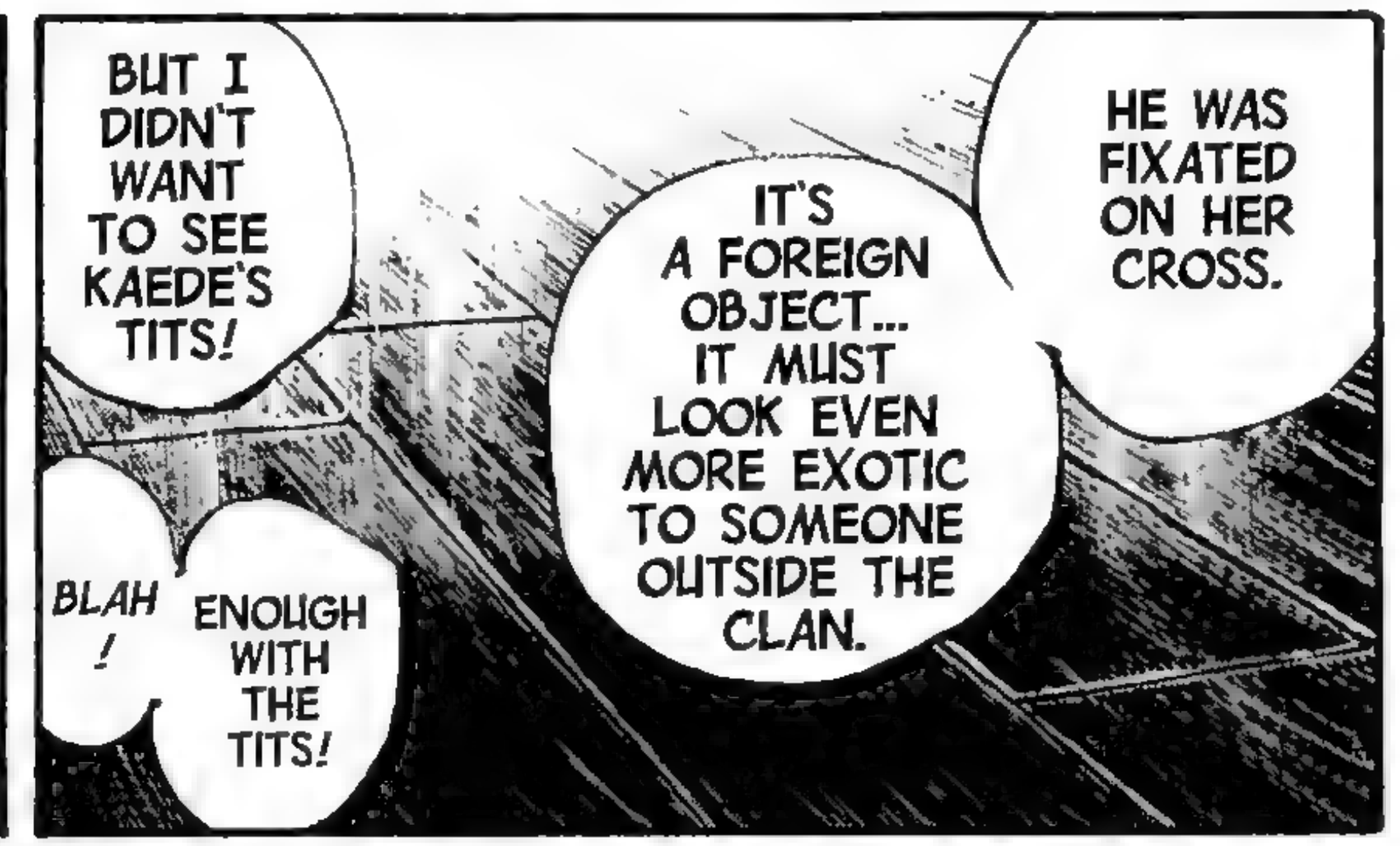
AHHH!

YOU DIDN'T KNOW!?
SHE'S A WOMAN?
BLAH.
KAEDE'S TITS.

AHH!
THAT WAS AN AWFUL SIGHT.


GANRYU...A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH. I HEARD HE LIKES WOMEN, BUT HE'S EVEN GOING FOR KAEDE?
NO, NO! THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE.


WHY IS SHE HERE ANYWAY?
IF WE COULD ONLY BULLY HER AROUND OPENLY...


BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO SEE KAEDE'S TITS!
IT'S A FOREIGN OBJECT... IT MUST LOOK EVEN MORE EXOTIC TO SOMEONE OUTSIDE THE CLAN.
HE WAS FIXATED ON HER CROSS.
BLAH!
ENOUGH WITH THE TITS!

CON-TINUE DOING THE SAME...
WE'LL JUST KEEP OUR DISTANCE.

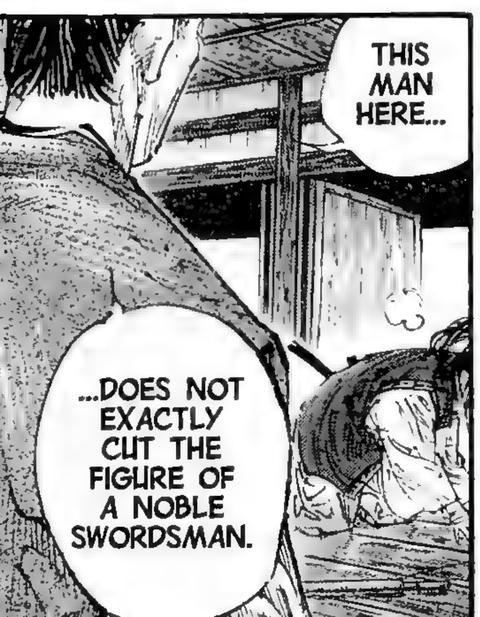
WE CAN'T THOUGH.
...THEN SHE'D GET SICK OF US AND LEAVE. WE'D ALL BE BETTER OFF THAT WAY.
CAN'T GET ALONG WITH HER.
CAN'T RESPECT HER EITHER.

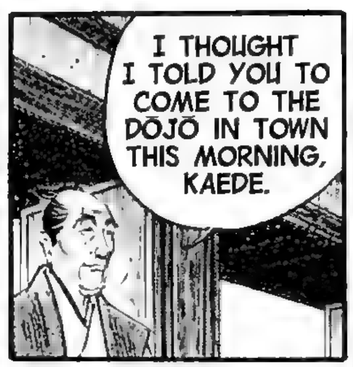
...THIS SO-CALLED GANRYŪ SENSEI?

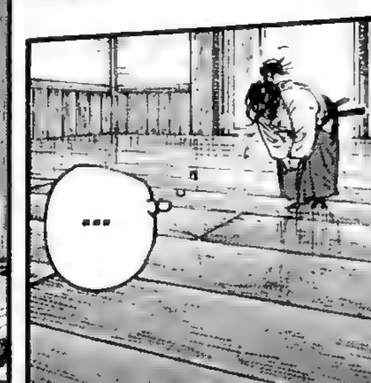
SO THE ONE ON HIS BACK OVER THERE IS...

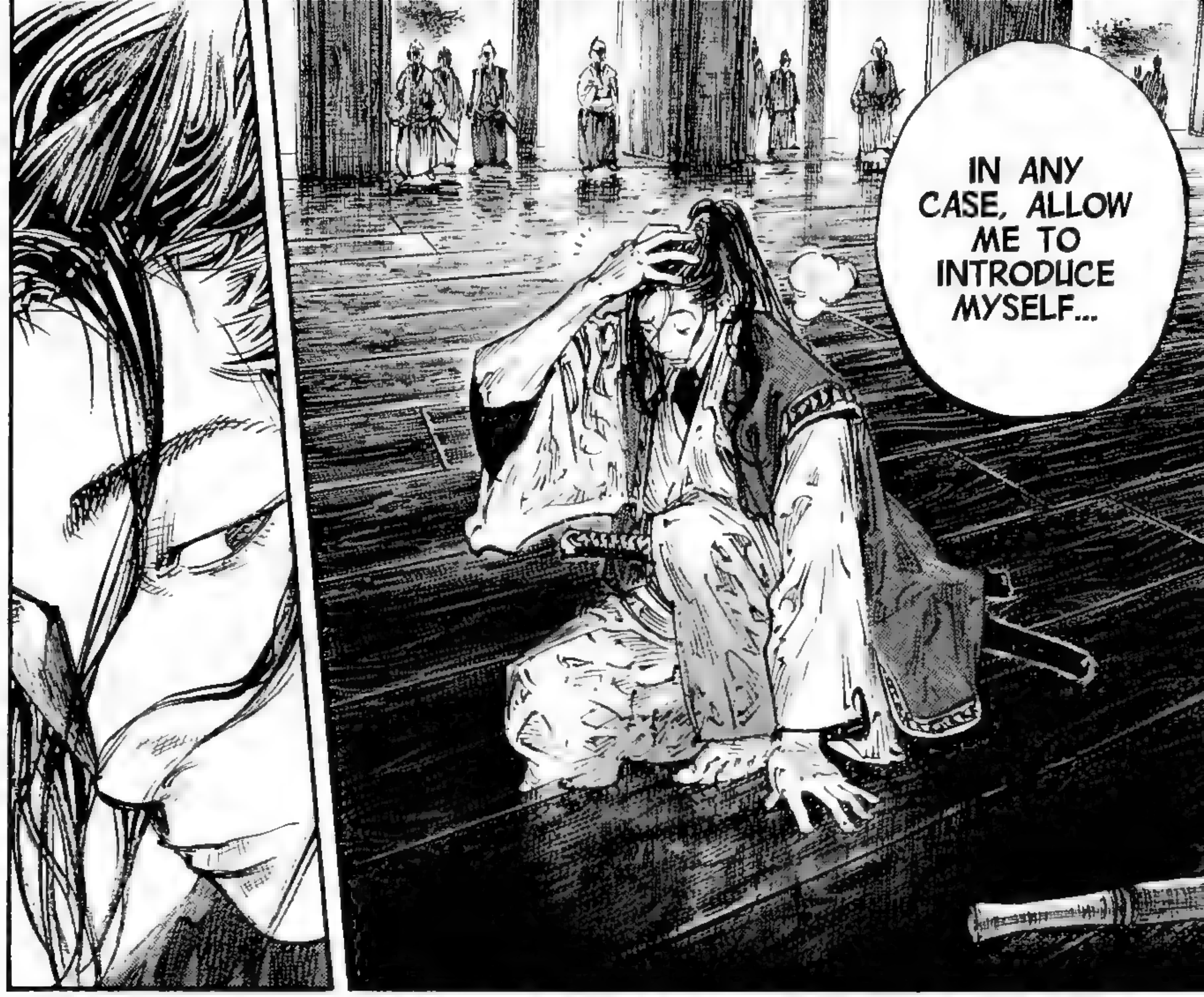
MY, OH MY...

#300 The Future of Our Clan

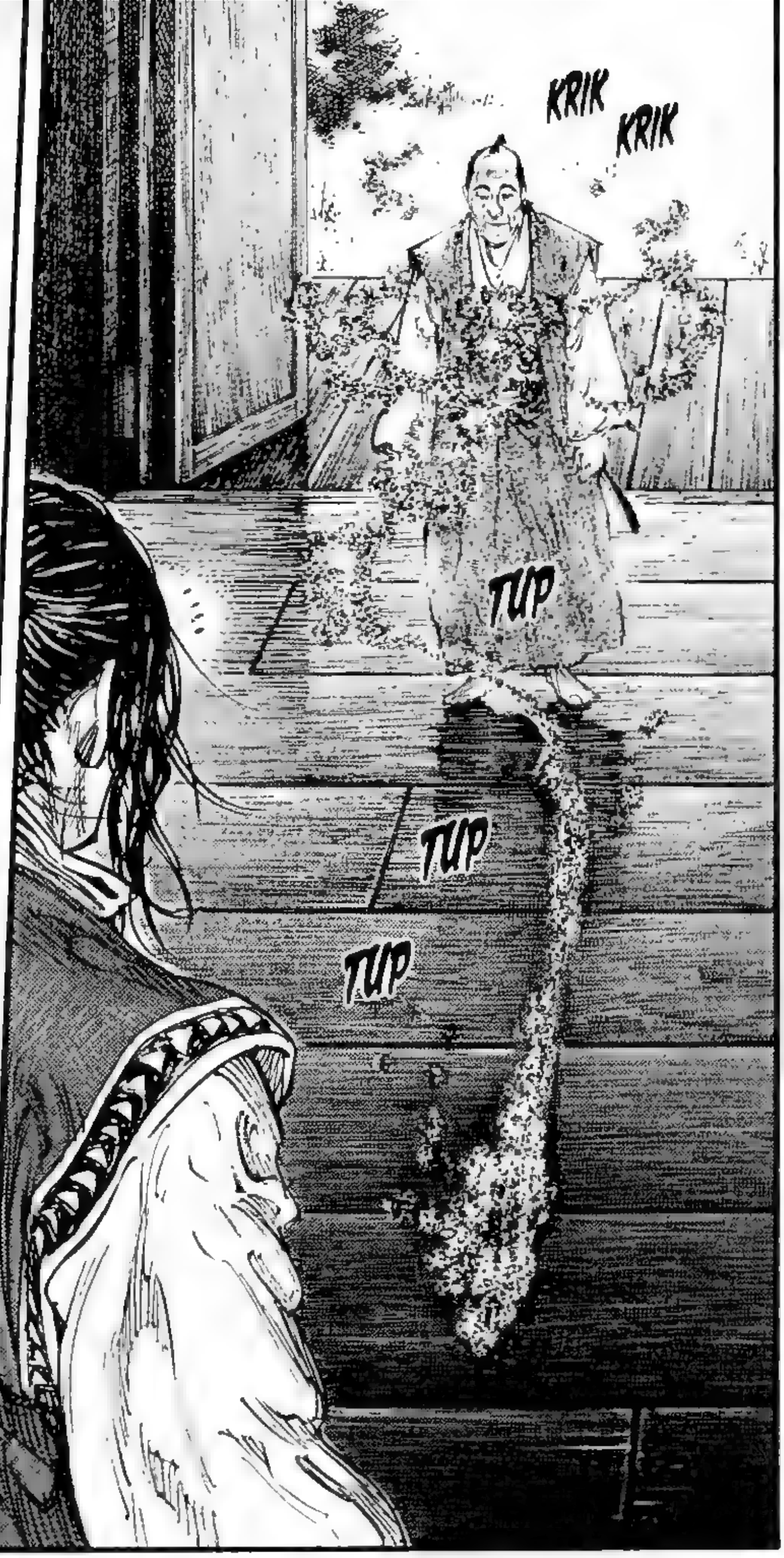







IN ANY CASE, ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF...

I AM UJIIE MAGOSHIRŌ.

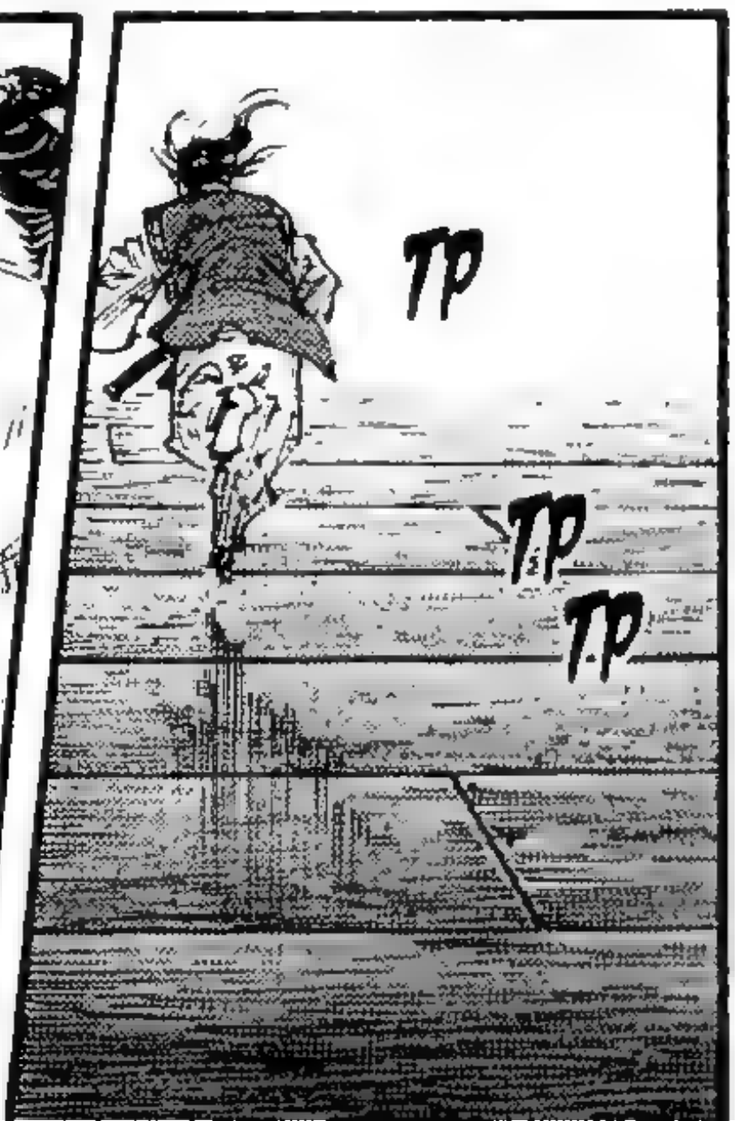

KRIK
KRIK
TUP
TUP
TUP

TMP

?!

?

...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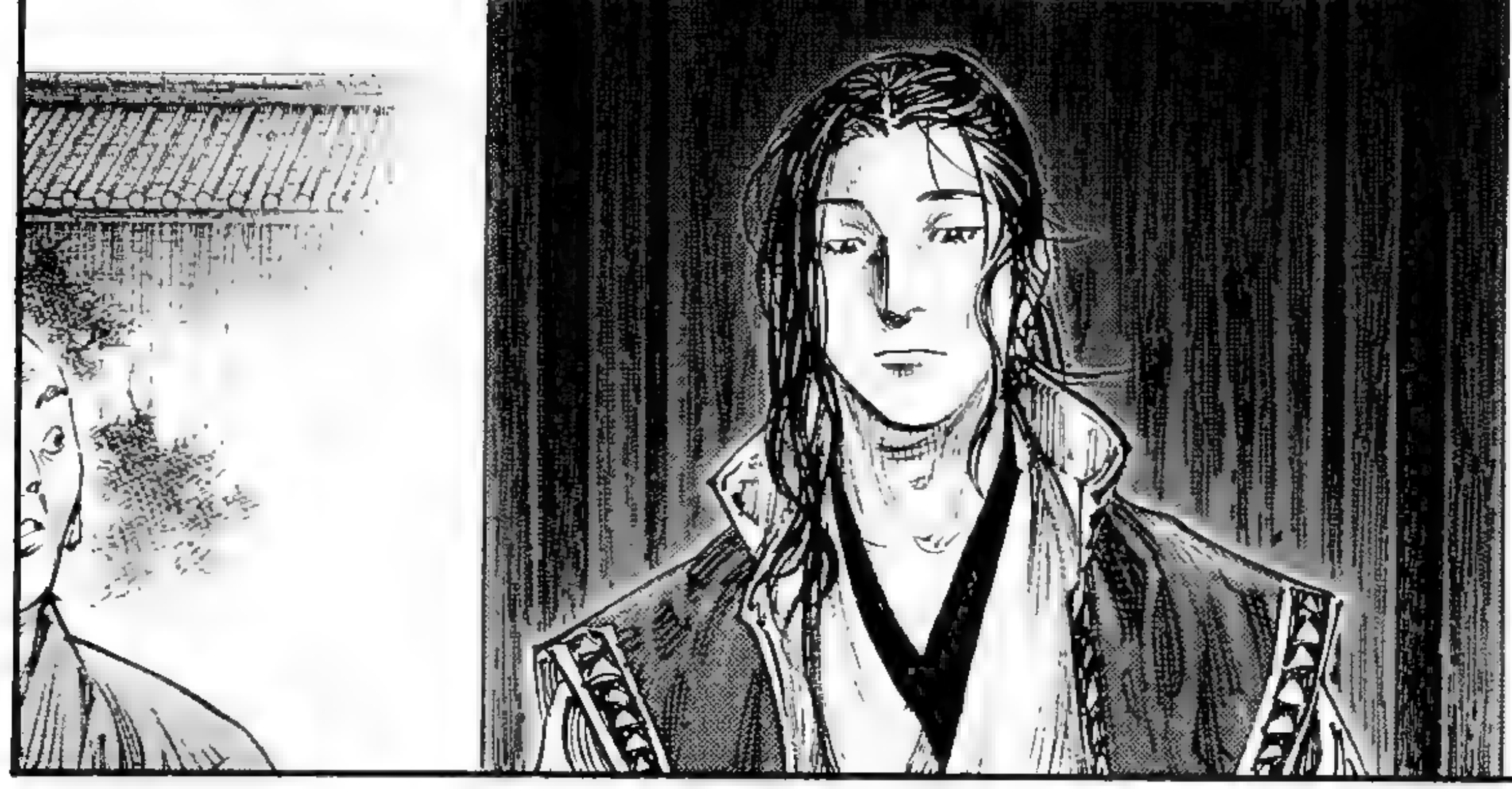


INDEED.
KOJIRO!

THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS!
HEY!

THIS...

DON'T JUST BRUSH ME OFF.
HEY!

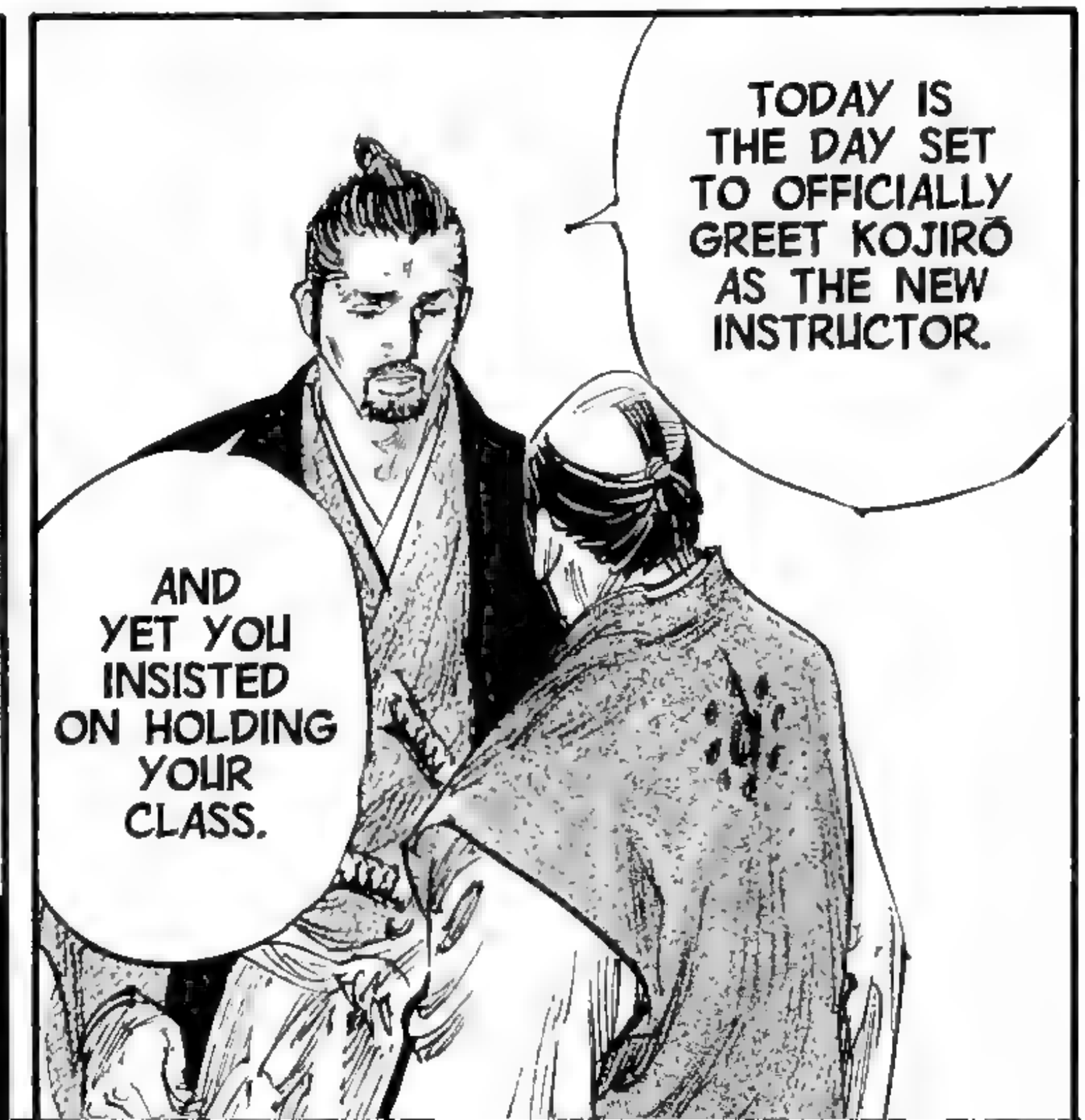
HA HA... BUT CAN YOU AFFORD TO MAKE EXCUSES ON THE BATTLEFIELD?

AND I WILL TEACH HIM THE PROPER MANNERS!
YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE HIM, BUT HE IS DEAF...
COME, KOJIRŌ!
BOW!

WELL... YES.

YOU MUST AGREE WITH ME ON THAT MUCH, MY LORD.
...IT IS PREFERABLE TO HIRE SOMEONE WHO CAN SPEAK AND HEAR.
IF EQUALLY SKILLED, THEN OF COURSE...

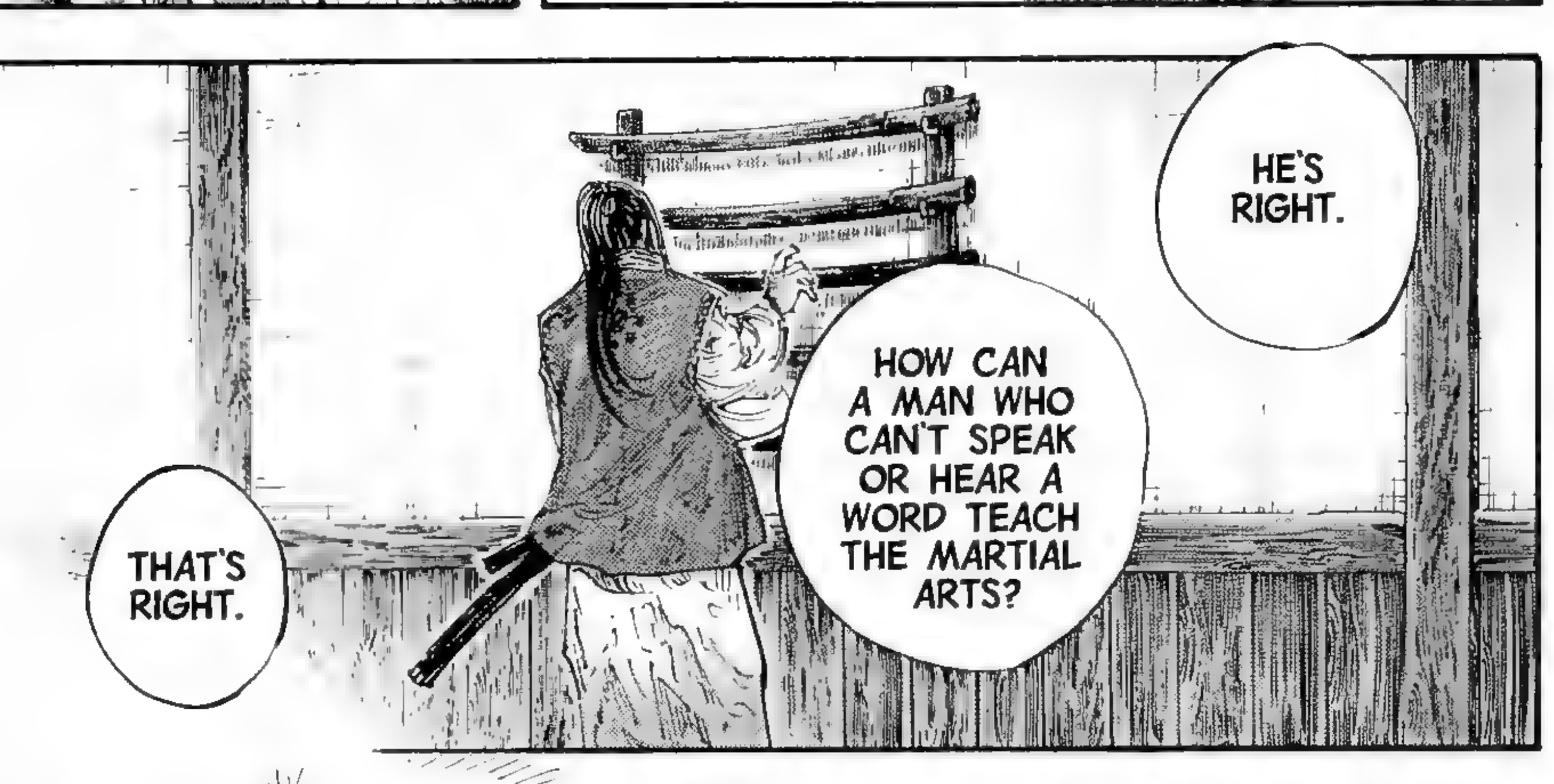
...WHO IS OWED AN APOLOGY, UJIIE.
YOU MAY NOT BE THE ONLY ONE...


TODAY IS THE DAY SET TO OFFICIALLY GREET KOJIRŌ AS THE NEW INSTRUCTOR.
AND YET YOU INSISTED ON HOLDING YOUR CLASS.

WELL THEN, I APOLOGIZE.

UJIIE IS RIGHT...

...TO THE FUTURE OF OUR CLAN.


THAT'S RIGHT.
HOW CAN A MAN WHO CAN'T SPEAK OR HEAR A WORD TEACH THE MARTIAL ARTS?
HE'S RIGHT.

...!!

A CIRCLE...

NO CORNERS.

FSH

TO BE ROUND IS TO BE STRONG.

IT IS THE IDEAL IMAGE FOR THE BUZEN KOKURA CLAN, FATHER.

MOST INTERESTING, TADATOSHI MY SON.

I SEE YOU'VE LEARNED A LOT IN EDO.

THEN I NEED TO ASK YOU AS MY SUCCES-SOR...

HOW YOU PERCEIVE THE CLAN NOW?

I HAVE THE SENSE THAT EVERYONE WILL LISTEN TO HIM OVER WHAT I HAVE TO SAY.

HA HA.

...AT HOW MUCH INFLUENCE UJIIE HAS.

I AM AMAZED ...

YOU COULD ARGUE THAT WAS PART OF HIS PLAN.

EVERYONE SEES MY SHADOW IN HIM NOW THAT I'M NO LONGER PART OF THE PICTURE.

HE WAS MY RIGHT-HAND MAN AFTER ALL.

YOU NEED TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO SMOOTH HIM OUT, MAKE HIM PART OF THE CIRCLE.

I WILL LEAVE ALONE THIS THORN CALLED UJIIE FOR THE MOMENT.

HE'S A HARD MAN TO READ.

WHILE WE'RE AT IT, I HAD ANOTHER WILD CARD IN MIND...

...BUT HE'S BEEN MISSING.

DOES HE PLAN ON SHARING THE PROSPERITY OF THIS COUNTRY WITH HIS PEOPLE...

...OR IS HE MERELY LOOKING OUT FOR HIMSELF?

YOU MEAN MUSASHI.

AUTHORITY ?

WHEN YOUR MEN AREN'T OBEDIENT ...

...WHAT DOES A RULER DEPEND ON?

ANSWER ME.

IT WILL ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR HIM RIGHT NOW.

TADA-TOSHI...

AH.
IT WILL MAKE YOU LOOM LARGER IN THEIR EYES.
APPRECIA-TION.
AND... HM...
...
IT MAY TAKE THE EDGE OFF THIS THORN.
KOJIRŌ!
SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T EVEN SPEAK HAS ARRIVED.
SOMEONE MORE WILD.

SINCE YOU CANNOT SPEAK, WHY DON'T YOU TELL US...

...WHO YOU ARE THEN...

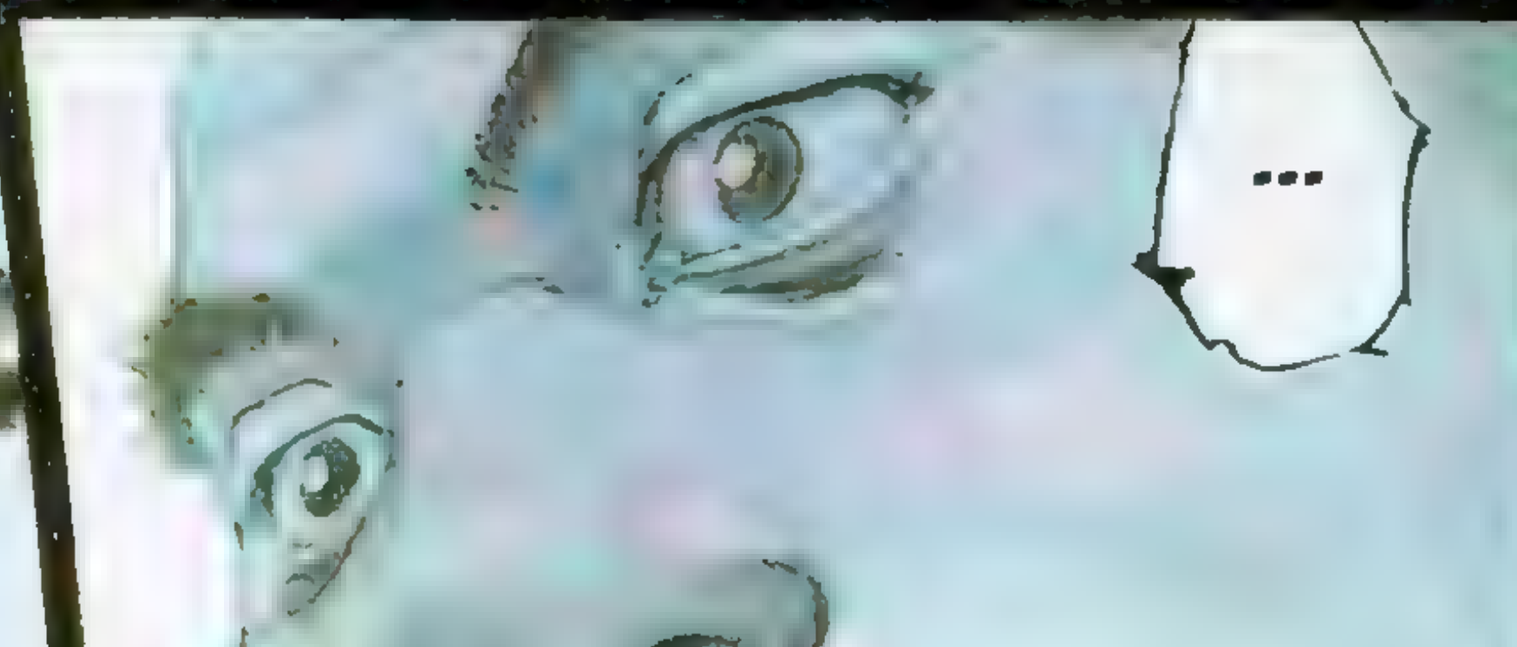
...WITH YOUR SWORD.

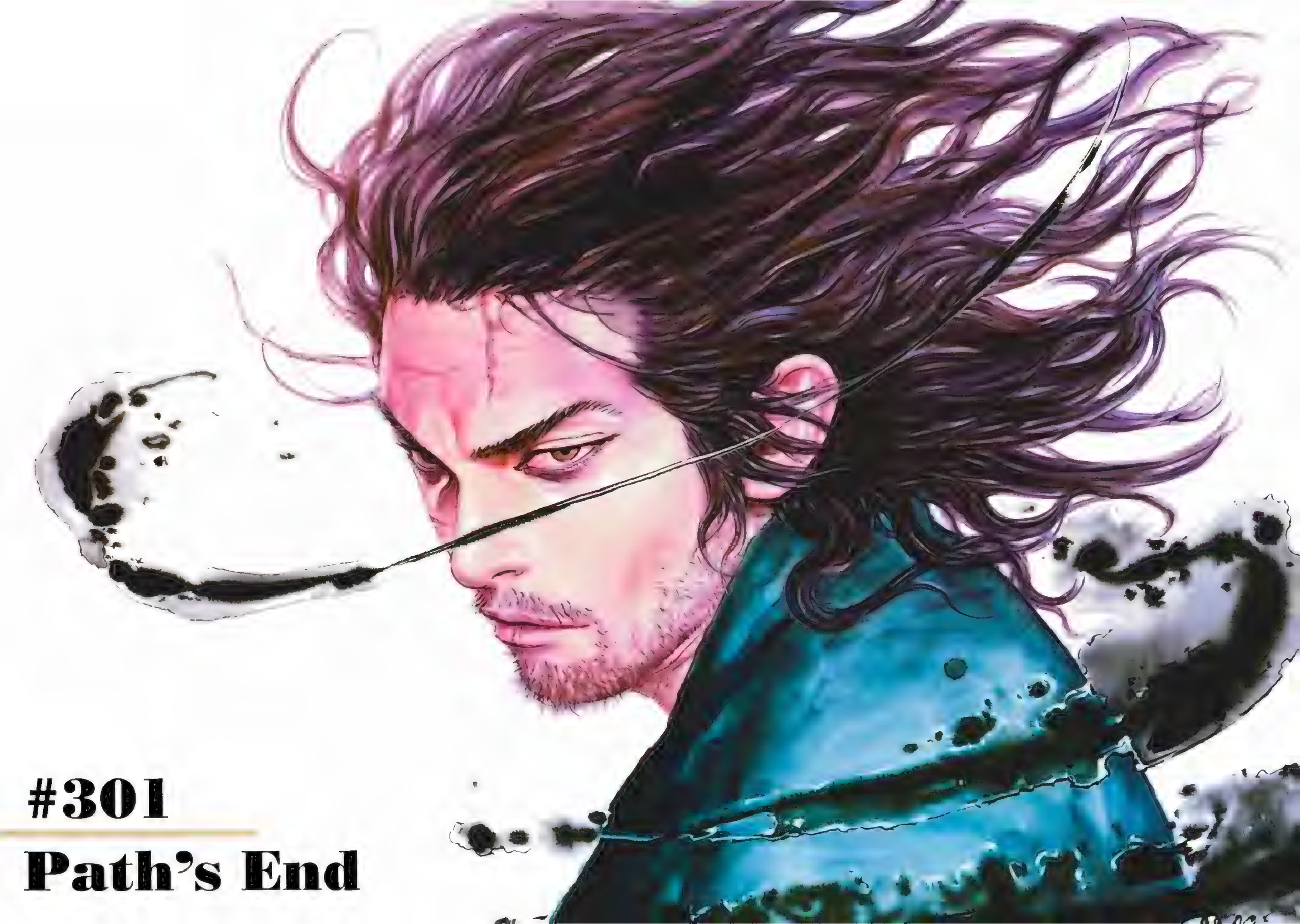
剣

SWORD

MUSASHI!

ARE YOU NOT MIYAMOTO MUSASHI?





#301
Path's End

DO YOU WANT TO BE CUT DOWN?
I'M MUSASHI.

HM.
...
CHAK
HE MUST BE...
...OF HIGH RANK FROM SOME CLAN.
THAT'S A NICE SWORD.
DOESN'T LEAVE HIMSELF OPEN.
I WANT TO KNOW...

...TO FIGHT.
KRICH

MY BODY WARNS ME...
...AGAINST FIGHTING...
ALL THE MORE REA-SON... I SUP-POSE...
...THAT IT'S DANGER-OUS...

KRICH
I GET GOOSE BUMPS.

...IF I STILL HAVE IT.
I NEED TO SEE...

!!
HMM... HE'S MORE EXTRA-ORDINARY THAN THEY SAY.

I CAN'T!

?!

TMP

...

HUTT.
HUTT.
FARE-WELL.

?
PLIPP
!

...

WAS IT THE MERE SIGHT OF THIS FIGURE FLEEING SO NIMBLY...

...THAT MADE MUSASHI...

...FEEL SO EMPTY?

SO...WHERE DID MUSASHI WIND UP AFTER HIS BATTLE AGAINST THE YOSHIOKA SCHOOL?

WITH NOWHERE TO GO...
HE BEGAN TO LOSE DIRECTION...
HOLD ON.

HOW COULD YOU KNOW ABOUT MUSASHI?
WHO ARE YOU?
YOU GIVE THIS ACCOUNT AS IF YOU WERE THERE.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BELIEVE ME...
MY NAME IS HON'IDEN MATAHACHI. I WAS BORN IN MIMASAKA NO KUNI.
MUSASHI AND I GREW UP TOGETHER. WE WERE LIKE BROTHERS.
THAT'S UP TO YOU.

THAT'S RIGHT, KID. SAME HERE.
I WANT TO HEAR ABOUT THE FIGHTING.

...SUCH A BLOODTHIRSTY CROWD.

MY OH MY...

WELL THEN, WHERE WAS I...?

THANK YOU.

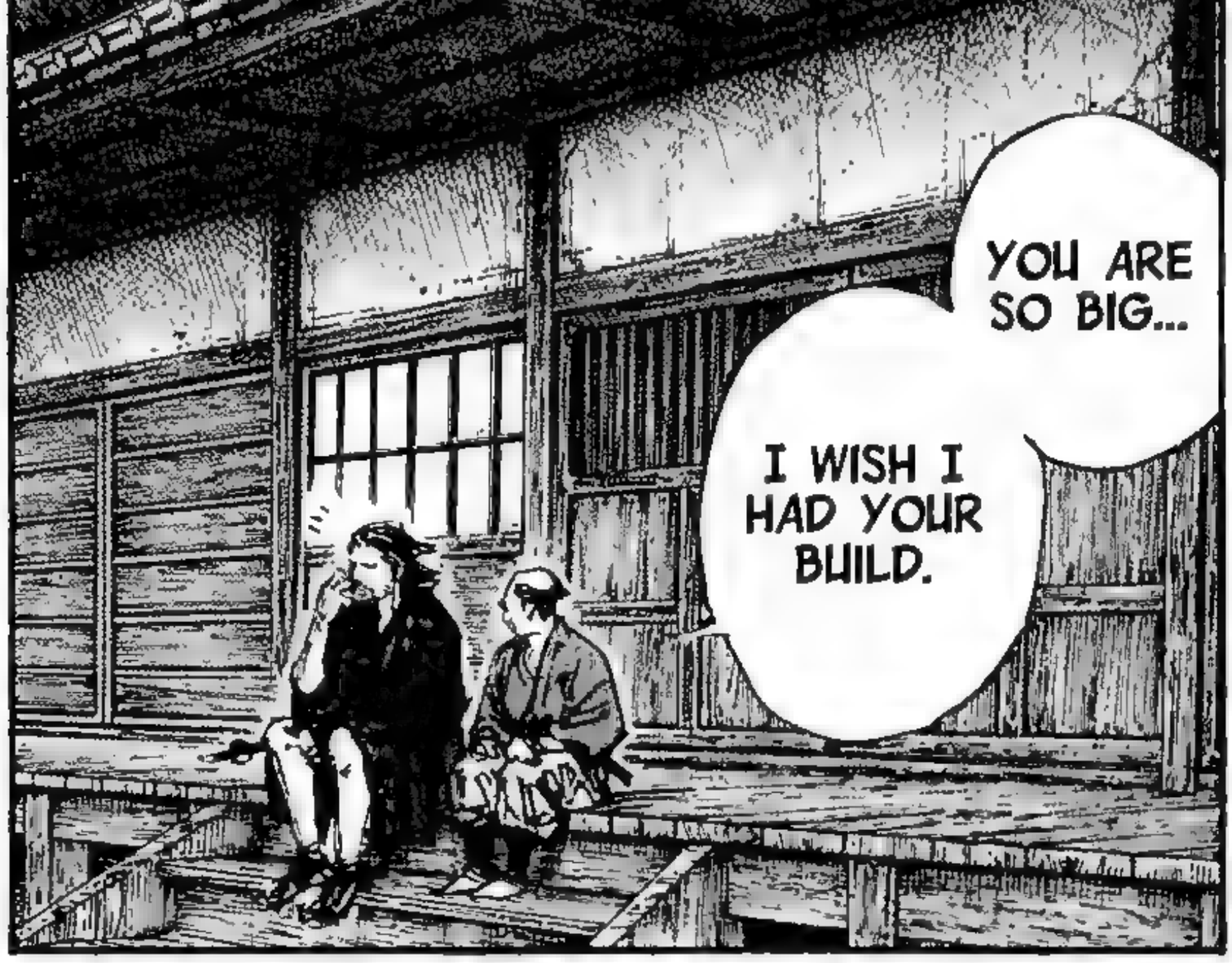
HERE YOU ARE.

WON'T YOU HAVE SOME OF THIS?

PLEASE, HAVE SOME.
HERE

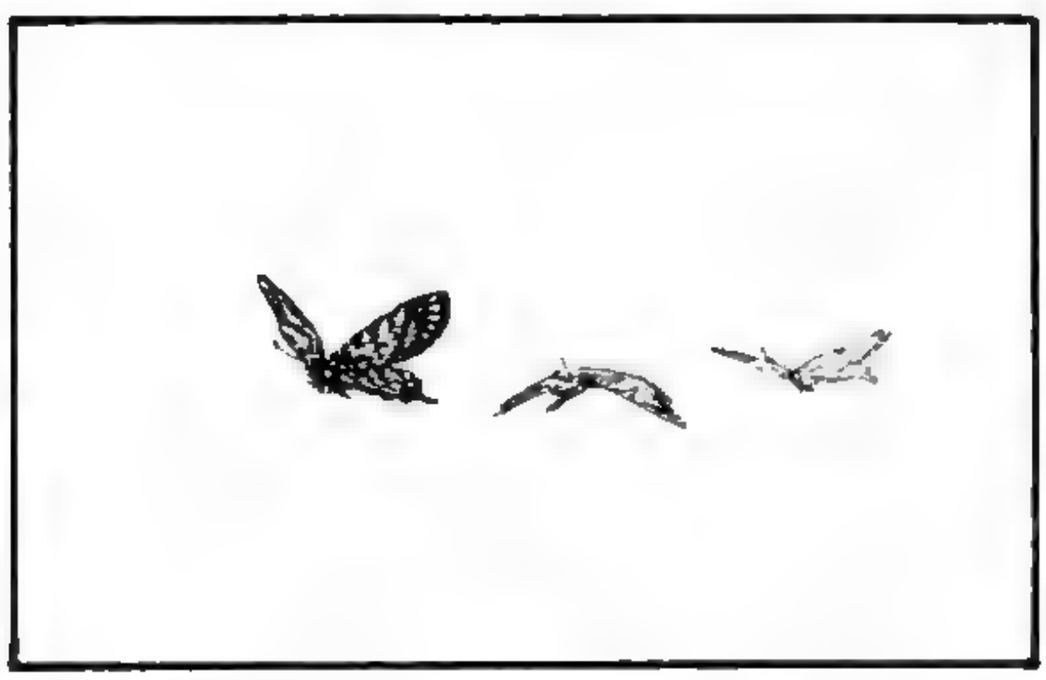
GRRRRRRR

I COULDN'T POSSIBLY.
YOU MUST HAVE A LONG JOURNEY.
OH NO.
GRRR


YOU ARE SO BIG...
I WISH I HAD YOUR BUILD.

ARE YOU TRAINING?
I AM TOO.

THAT'S A STRANGE BUTTER-FLY.



OH, I'VE NEVER HAD ONE.
WHO IS YOUR MASTER?
I SEE.

...BUT HE WAS KILLED IN A SWORD-FIGHT.

MINE DIED SEVERAL YEARS AGO.
HIS HEIR INHERITED THE SCHOOL...

...ALONG WITH THE REST OF THE SCHOOL...

IN TRYING TO AVENGE HIS DEATH, HIS BROTHER WAS ALSO KILLED...

IT WAS AN ELITE ACADEMY. ALL SEVENTY OF THEM.

THIS WAS NO RUN OF THE MILL SCHOOL.

I'M NOT EXAGGERATING.

...BY A SINGLE MAN.

"HE WEARS HIS HAIR LONG."

HE IS.

IS...THIS MAN STILL ALIVE?

THE THREE OF US ARE TO CONVENE HERE TODAY.

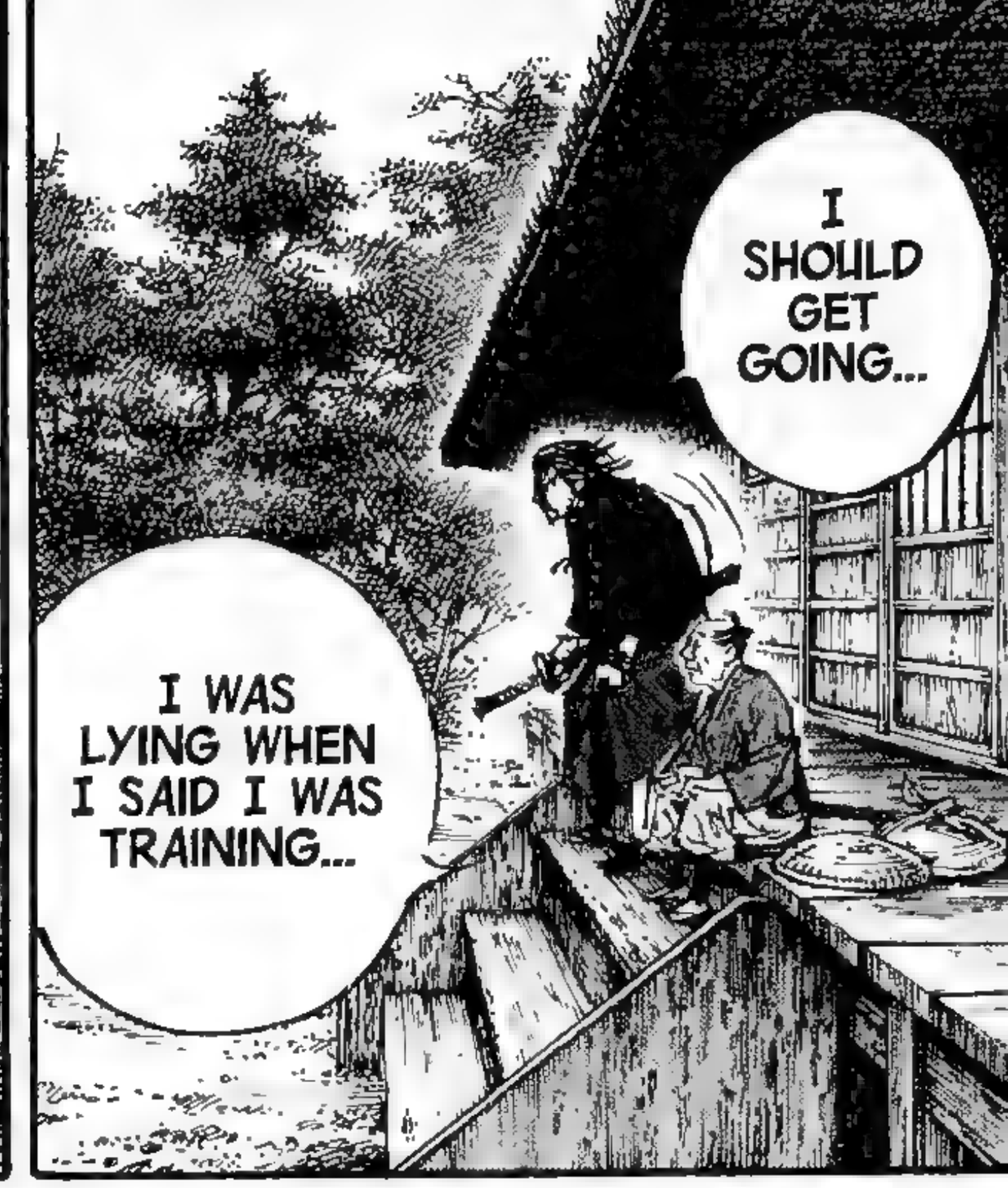
TWO DISCIPLES FROM THE SAME SCHOOL HAVE BEEN DOING THE SAME.

THAT'S HOW HE'S BEEN DESCRIBED AS I'VE SEARCHED FOR HIM.

"STRIKING EYES."

"A BIG MAN NEARLY SIX SHAKU TALL."

...HAS HAUNTED ME THROUGHOUT THIS JOURNEY TO AVENGE MY FELLOW DISCIPLES' DEATHS.
THE HUMILIATION OF HAVING ONE'S SCHOOL DESTROYED ...


I SHOULD GET GOING...
I WAS LYING WHEN I SAID I WAS TRAINING...

...MUST FEEL THE SAME WAY.
THEY MAY BE SCATTERED ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, BUT EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOSHIOKA KEMPŌ'S DISCIPLES...

HE WEARS HIS HAIR LONG.
OVER SIX FEET TALL.

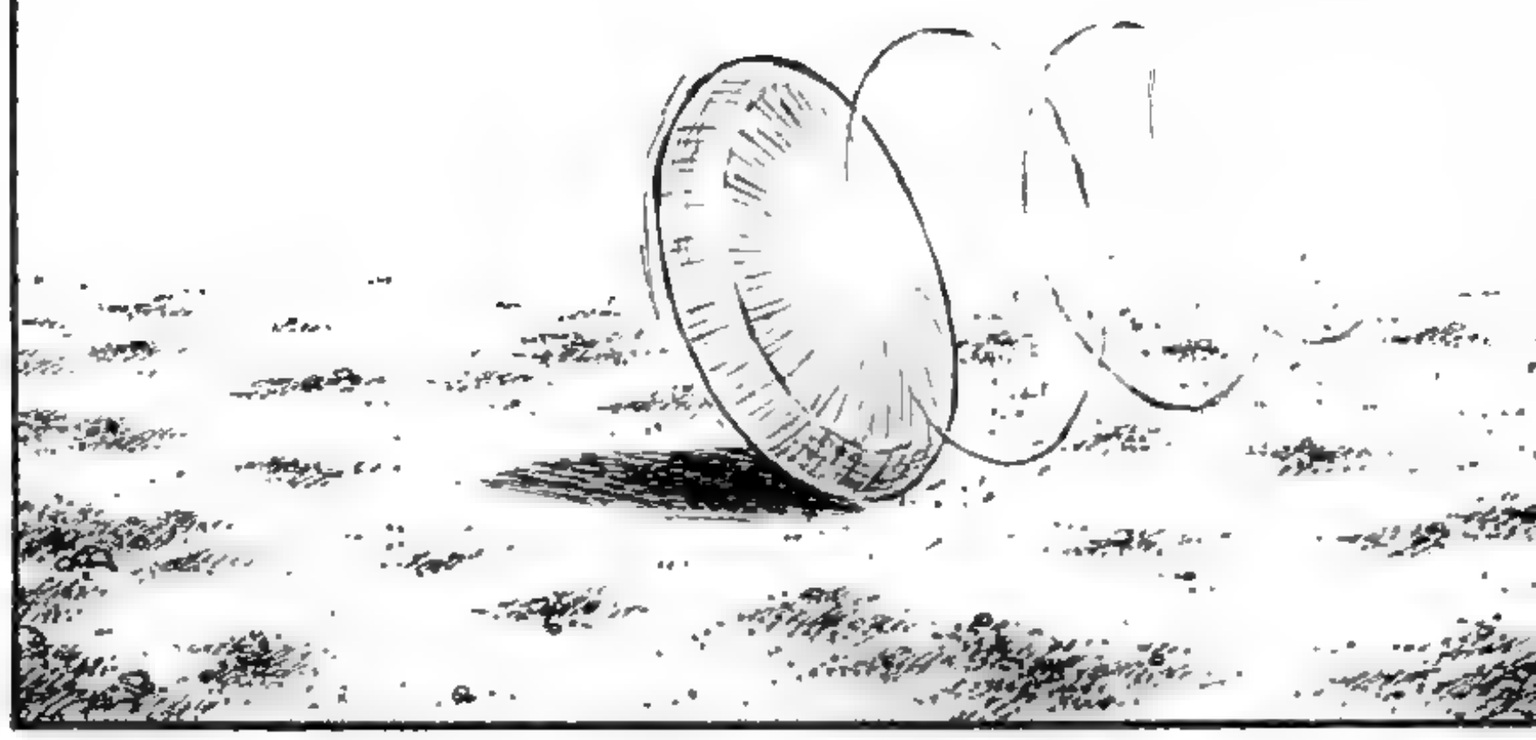
GOOD-BYE.

HM?
DID YOU INJURE YOUR LEG?
...

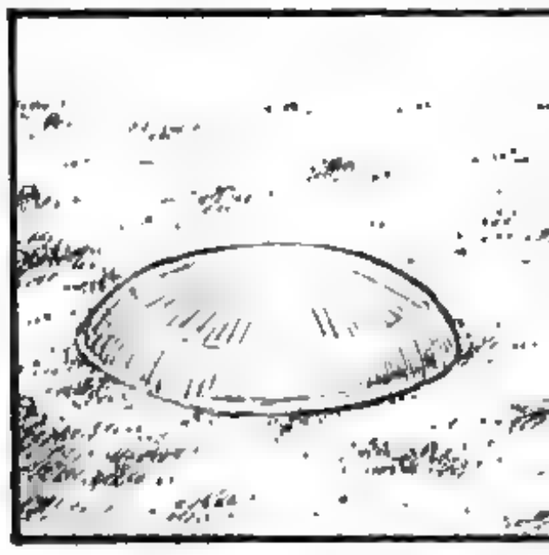
HE HAS NOT YET FULLY RECOVERED ...

...FROM HIS BATTLE WITH KEMPŌ'S DISCIPLES.

FSSSK



PLIP
PLIP



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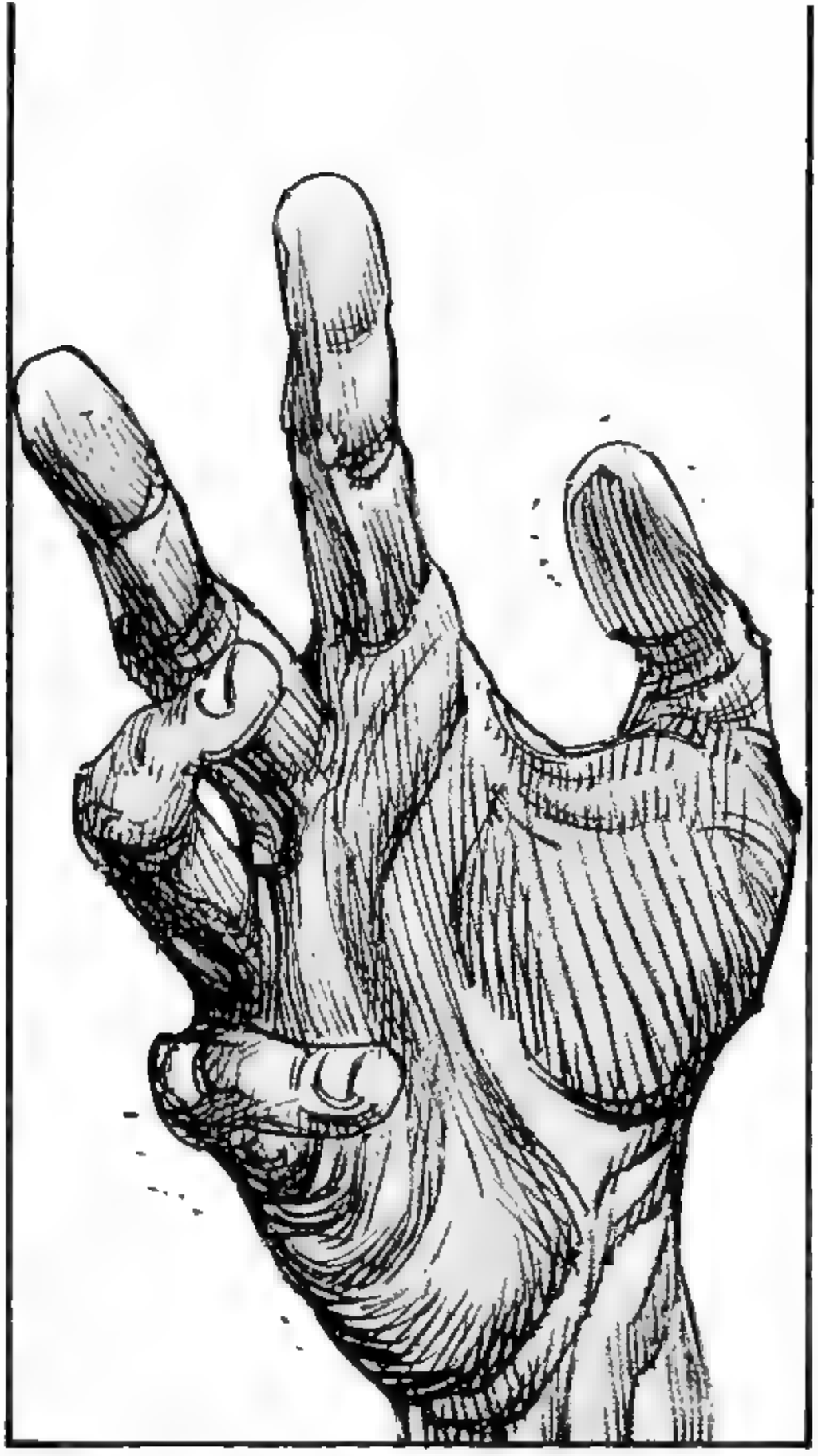
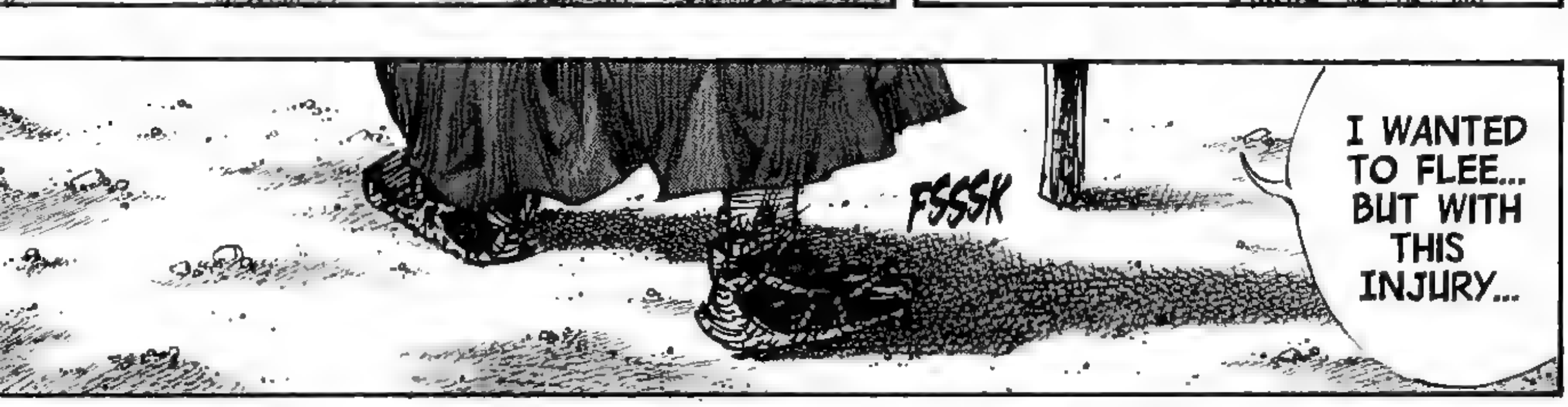



FSSSK
I WANTED TO FLEE... BUT WITH THIS INJURY...

A WILDFIRE ENGULFED THE MOUNTAIN BEHIND US.
WHEN I WAS STILL A CHILD...

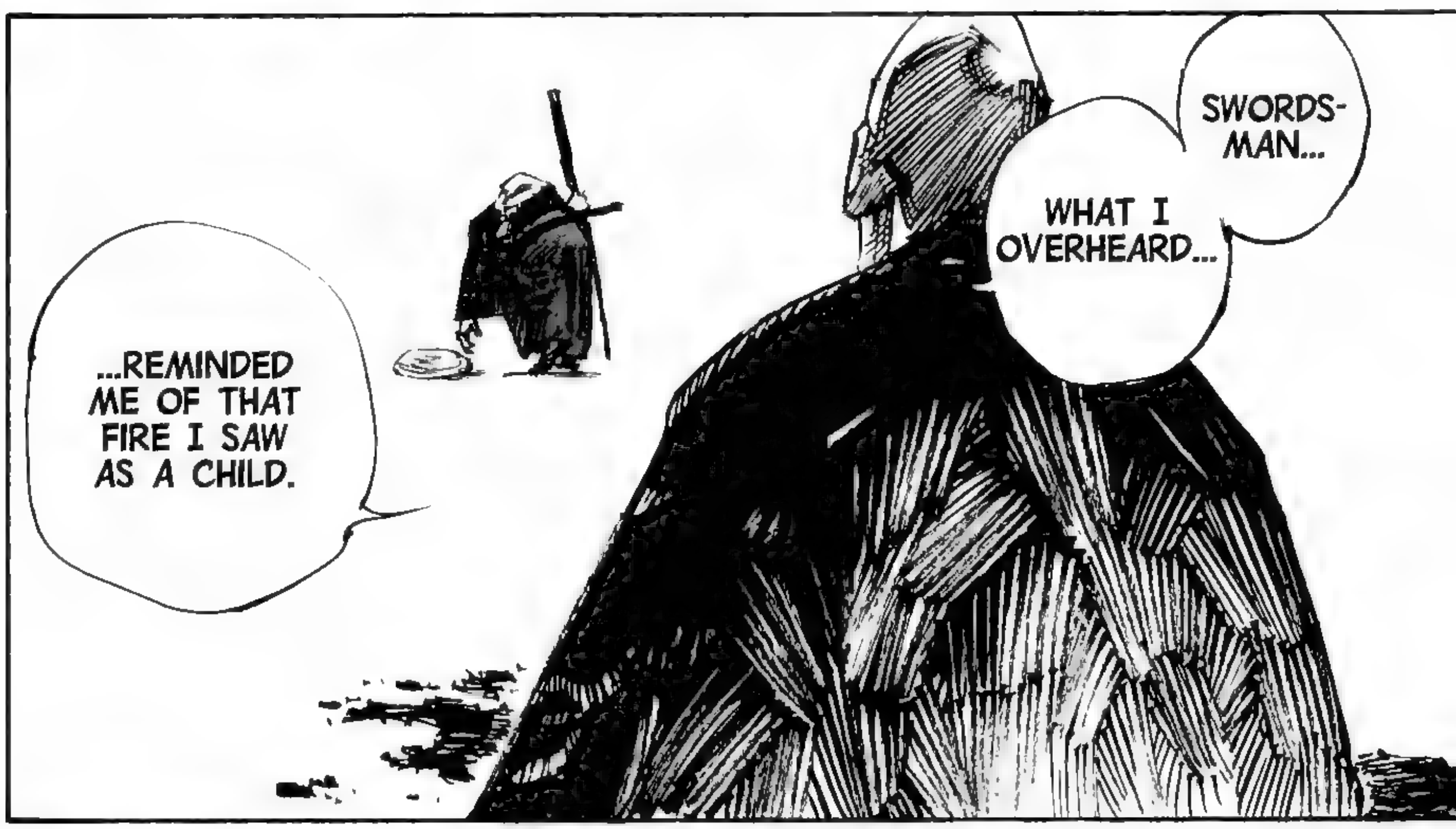
FSSSK

A LONG LONG TIME AGO...

...THERE'S NO WAY TO STOP IT.
YOU CAN ONLY WAIT FOR IT TO DIE DOWN.

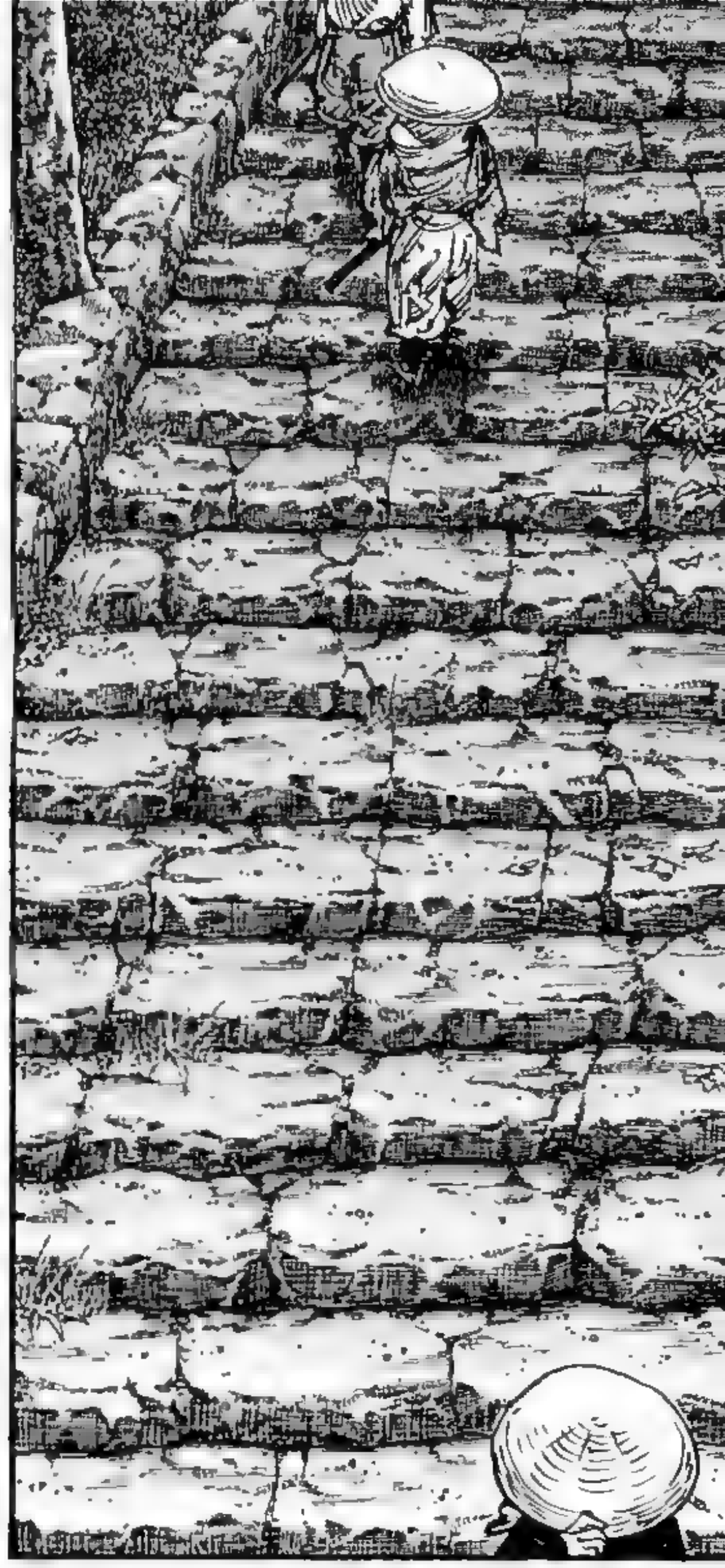
WHO'S THAT?
OH, FROM THIS TEMPLE...

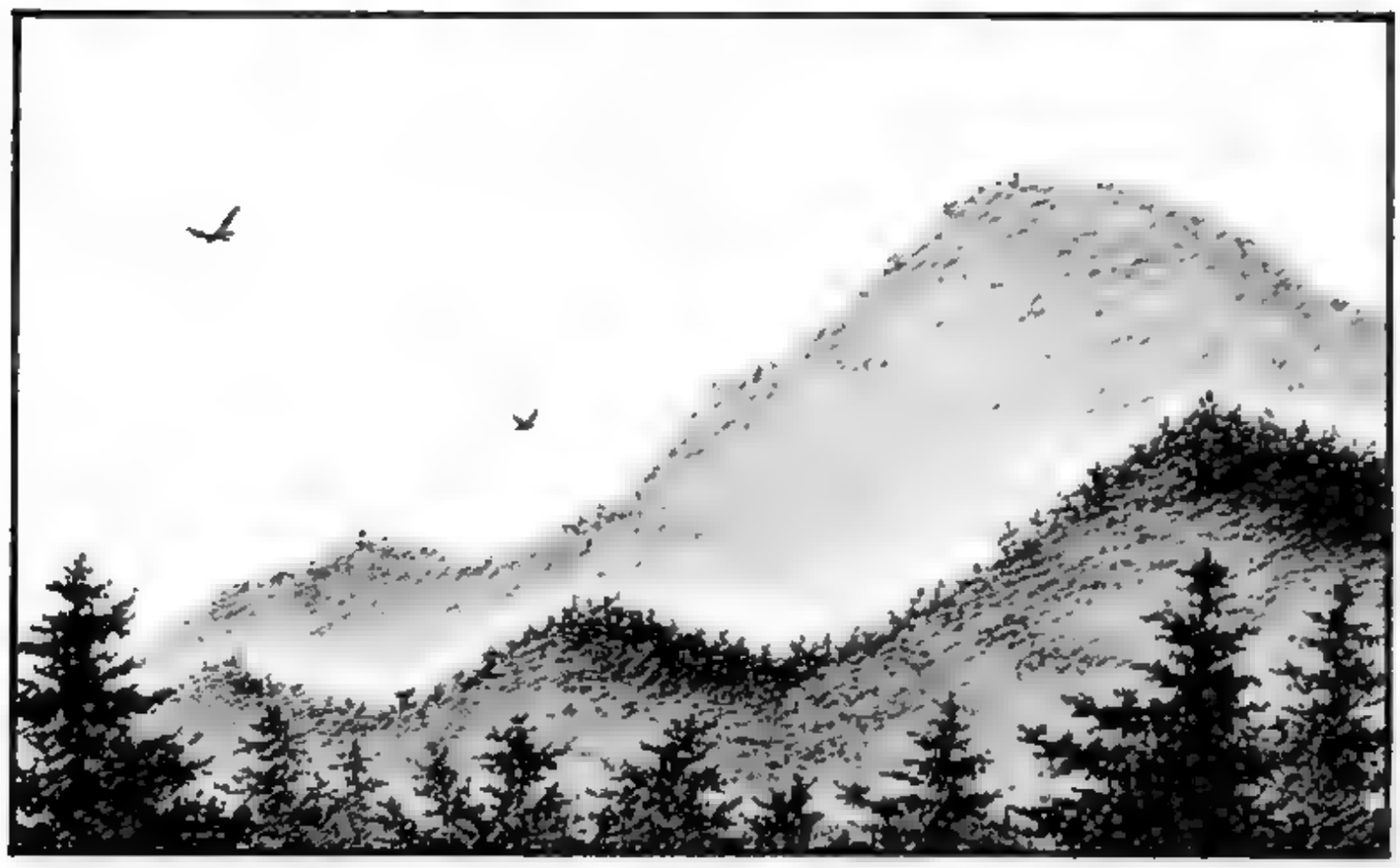
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A WILDFIRE?
ONCE IT GETS GOING...


SWORDS-MAN...
WHAT I OVERHEARD...
...REMINDED ME OF THAT FIRE I SAW AS A CHILD.

YOU APPEAR TO BE...

...A RABBIT FLEEING THE FLAMES.





HUF
HUF

I SUPPOSE ...

FICH
FICH

...IF YOU WERE THE ONE WHO SET THE FIRE...
...YOU MUST PAY THE CONSEQUENCES.
...THEN...

THE HUMILIATION OF HAVING ONE'S SCHOOL DESTROYED HAS HAUNTED ME.

THEY MAY BE SCATTERED ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, BUT EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOSHI-OKA KEMPŌ'S DISCIPLES MUST FEEL THE SAME WAY.

FWISSH

URGH ...

ARGH ...

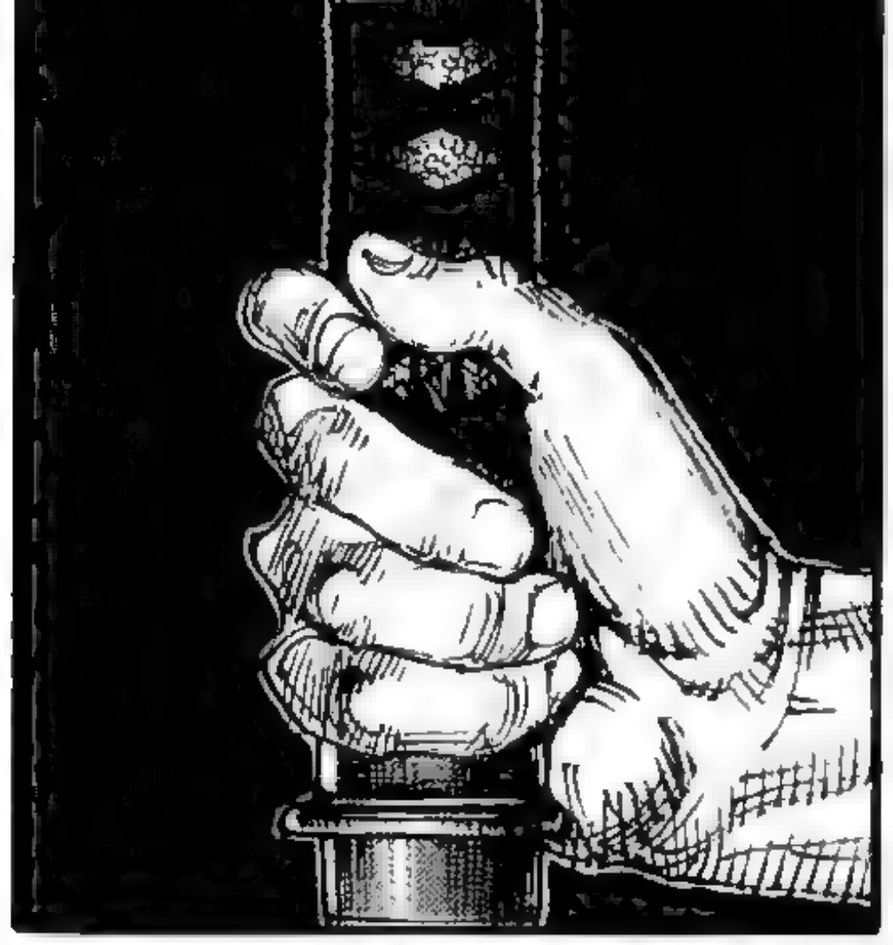
FWISSHH

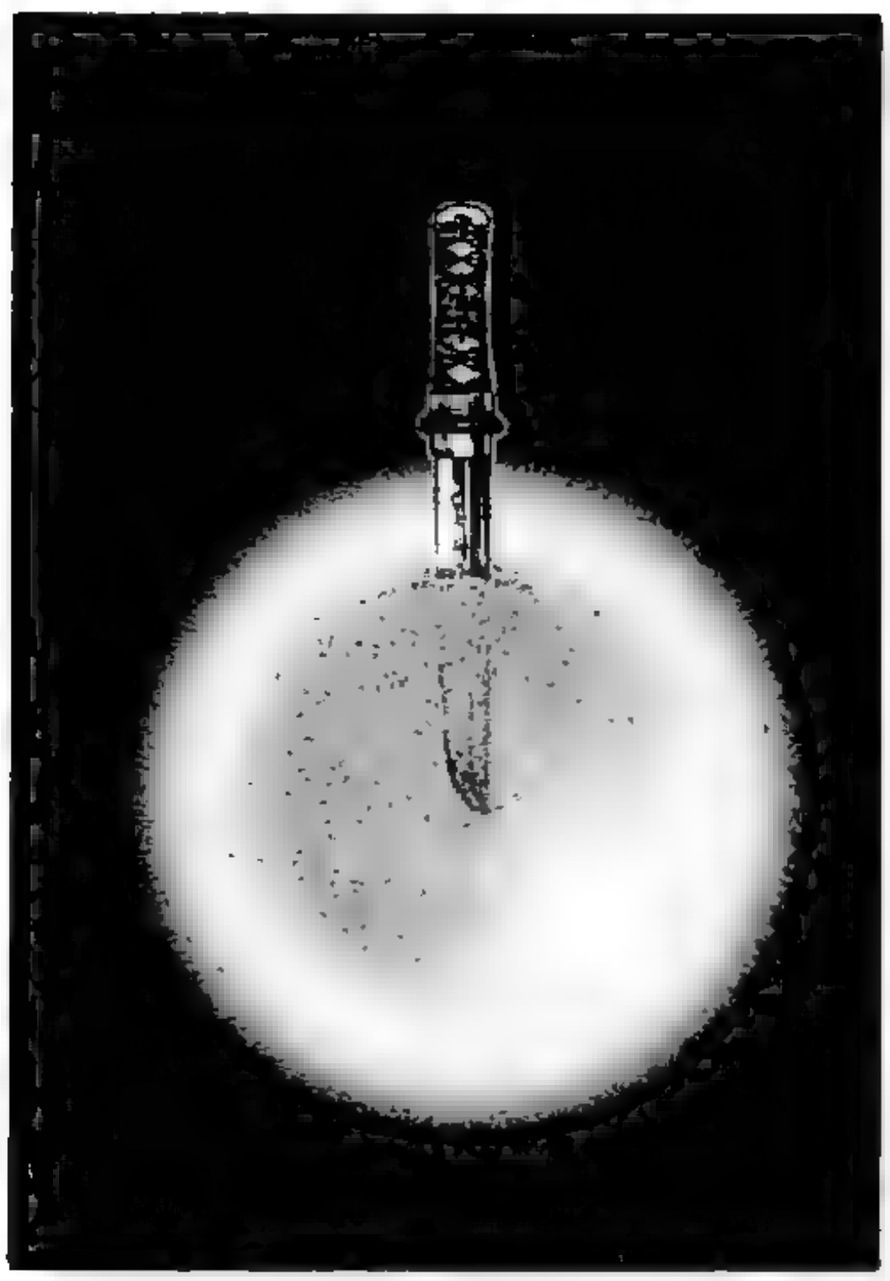
FWISSHH

DAMN...

...THIS LEG.

SINCE WHEN...

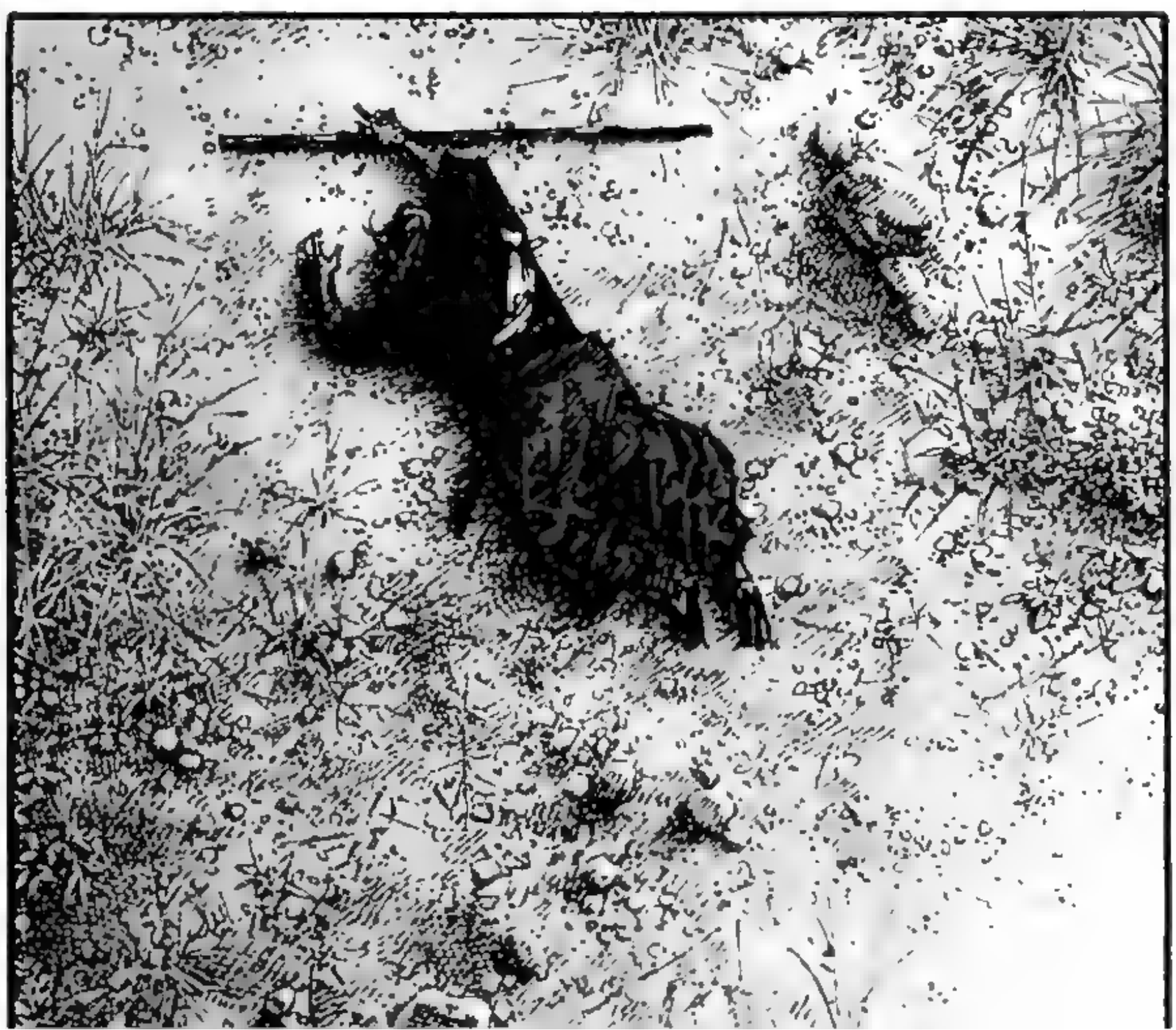


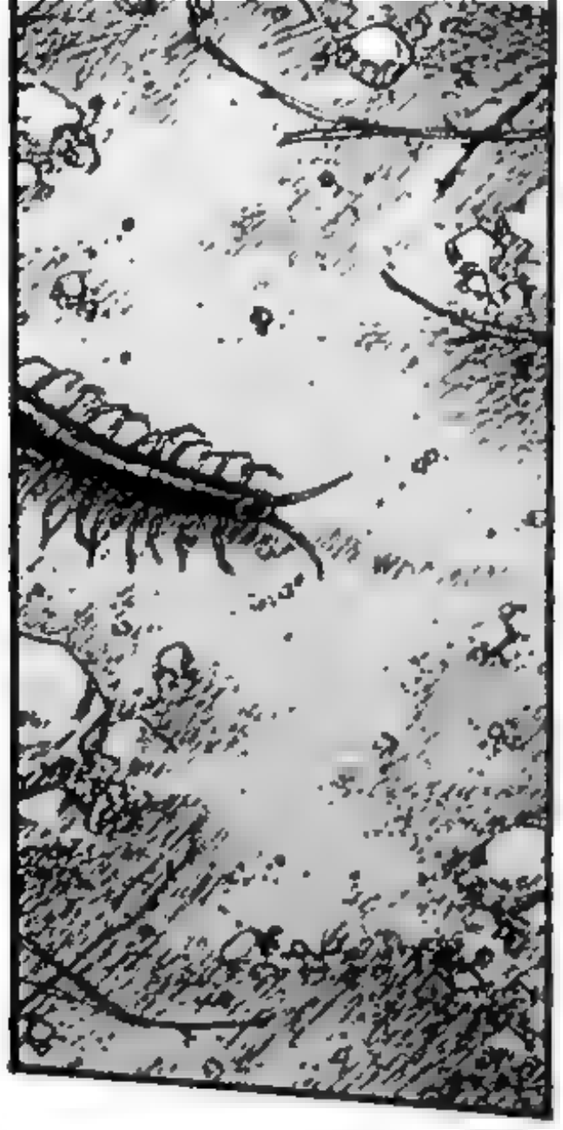


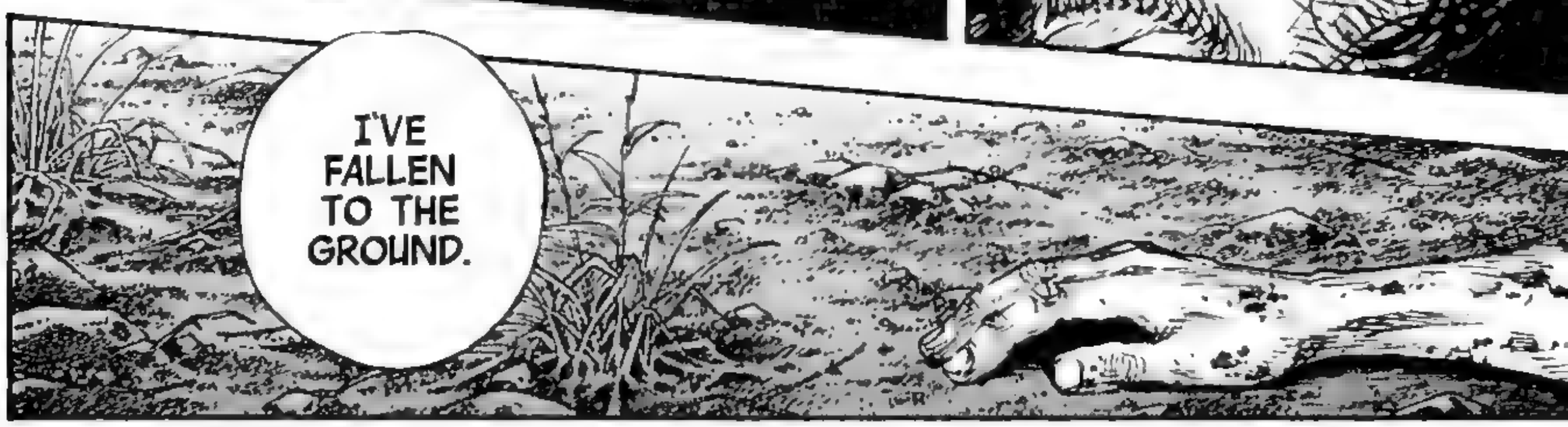
...HAVE I FELT LIKE I'M POINTING THE SWORD AT MYSELF...
PLISH PLISH
...AS I FIGHT OTHERS?

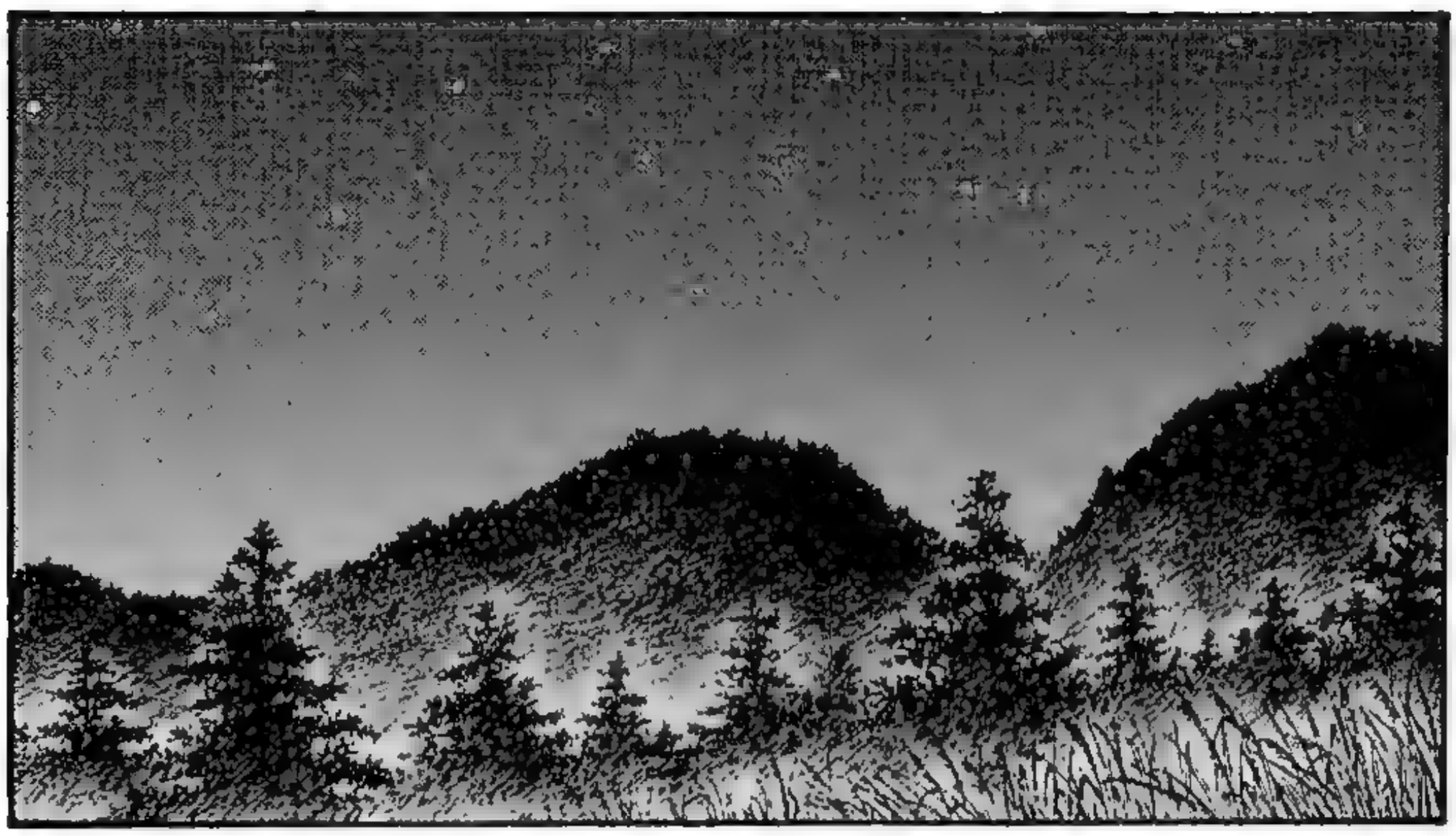
MUSASHI ISN'T MUSASHI ANYMORE.

SO TIRED...






I'VE FALLEN TO THE GROUND.

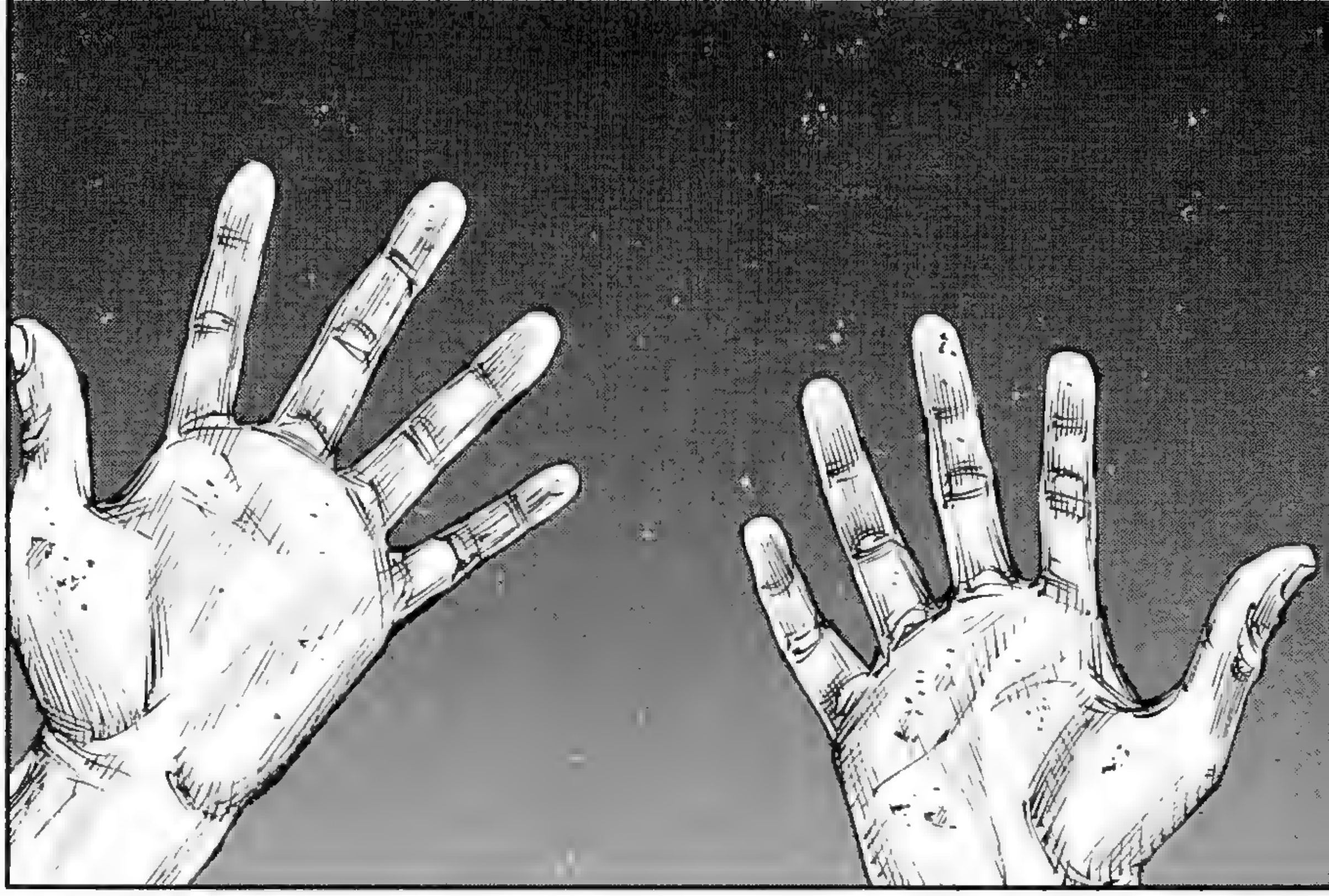


...THAT'S NOT IT.

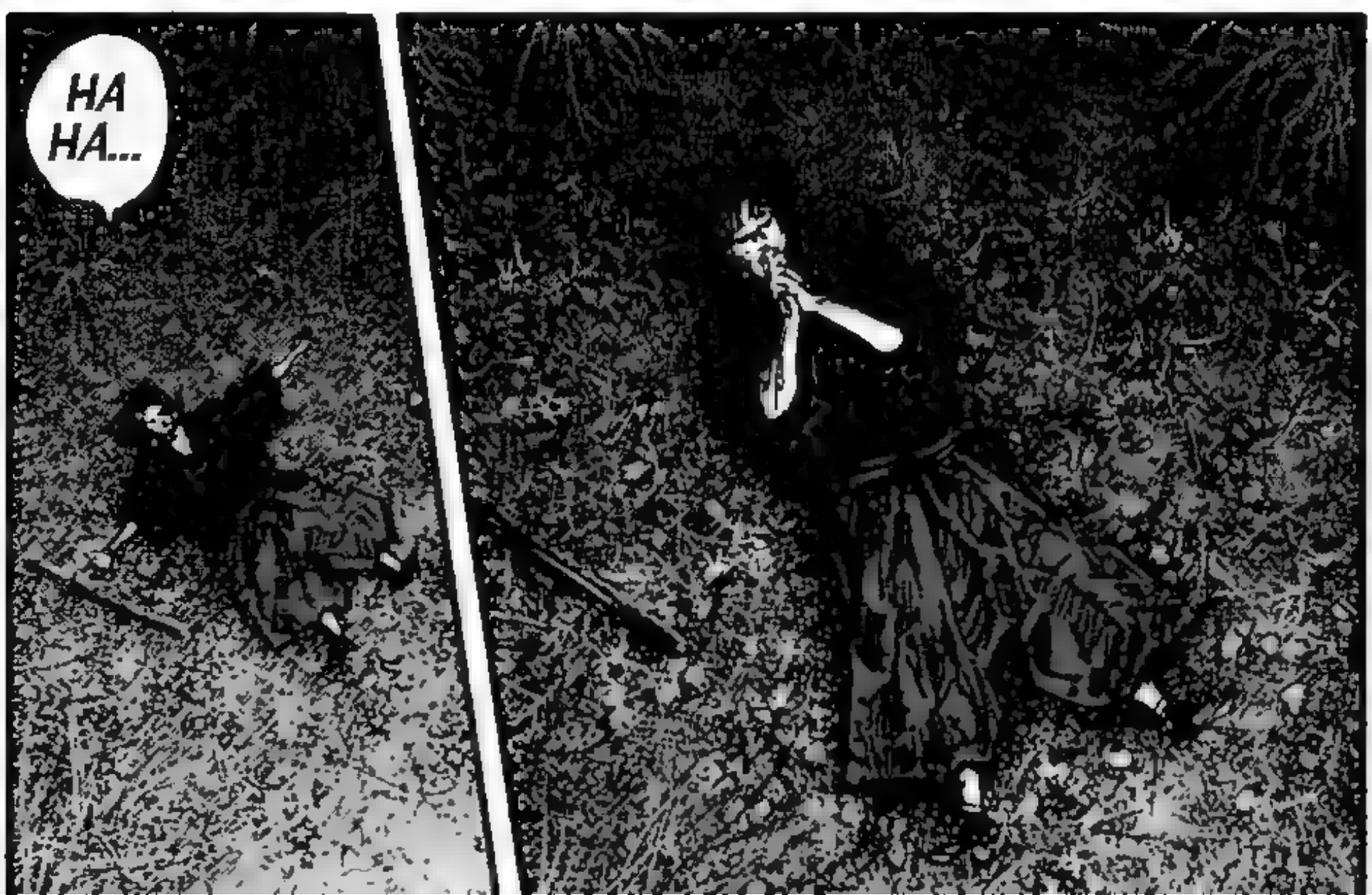
NO...

THE STARS ARE JUST AS HIGH AS THEY EVER WERE.
THAT'S IT.

BACK TO WHERE I WAS...
...I HAVE NOTHING.
BACK ON GROUND.
I'M BACK.



...NOBODY.
I'M ABSOLUTELY ...


HA HA...

OWW.
...THIS DAMN LEG FIRST.
I HAVE TO FIX...

MUSASHI...
HOW ABOUT IT?

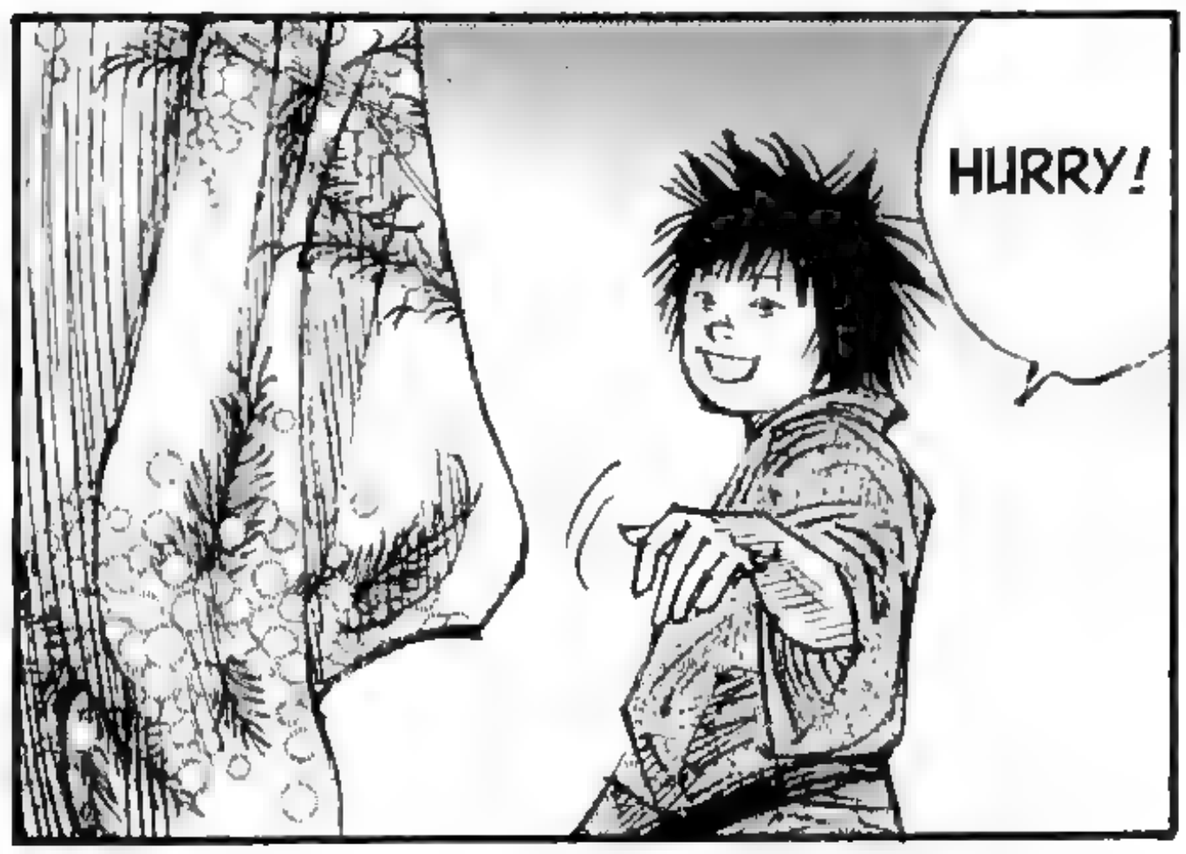
...

WHAT WILL YOU SAY?
...IF WE MEET AGAIN, I'LL TELL YOU.

SOME-DAY...

MAY I BE STRONG...

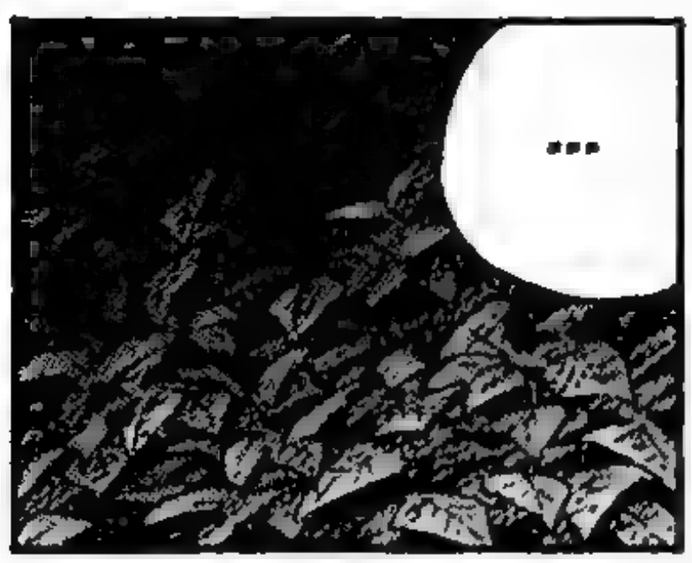
...LIKE MY MASTER.



OTSU.
KOFF

I WANT TO LIVE WITH YOU SOMEDAY.

NOW I CAN LIVE ANOTHER DAY.



FICH

SMILE...

...MORE.

AND OVER HERE.

LIFT OVER HERE.

HA HA...

Vagabond

TUGG TUGG

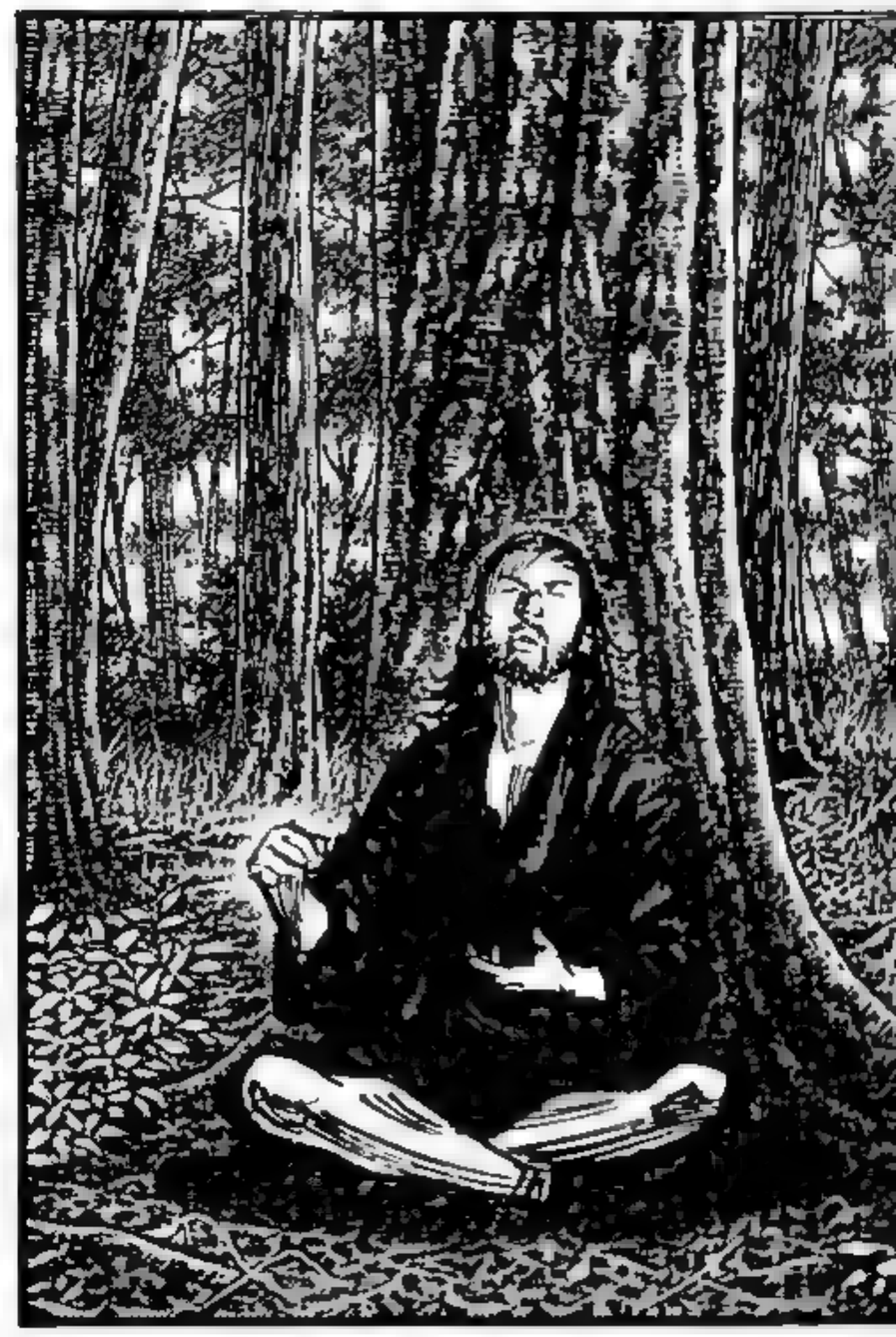
#302 | Child of the Earth

...

HOFF

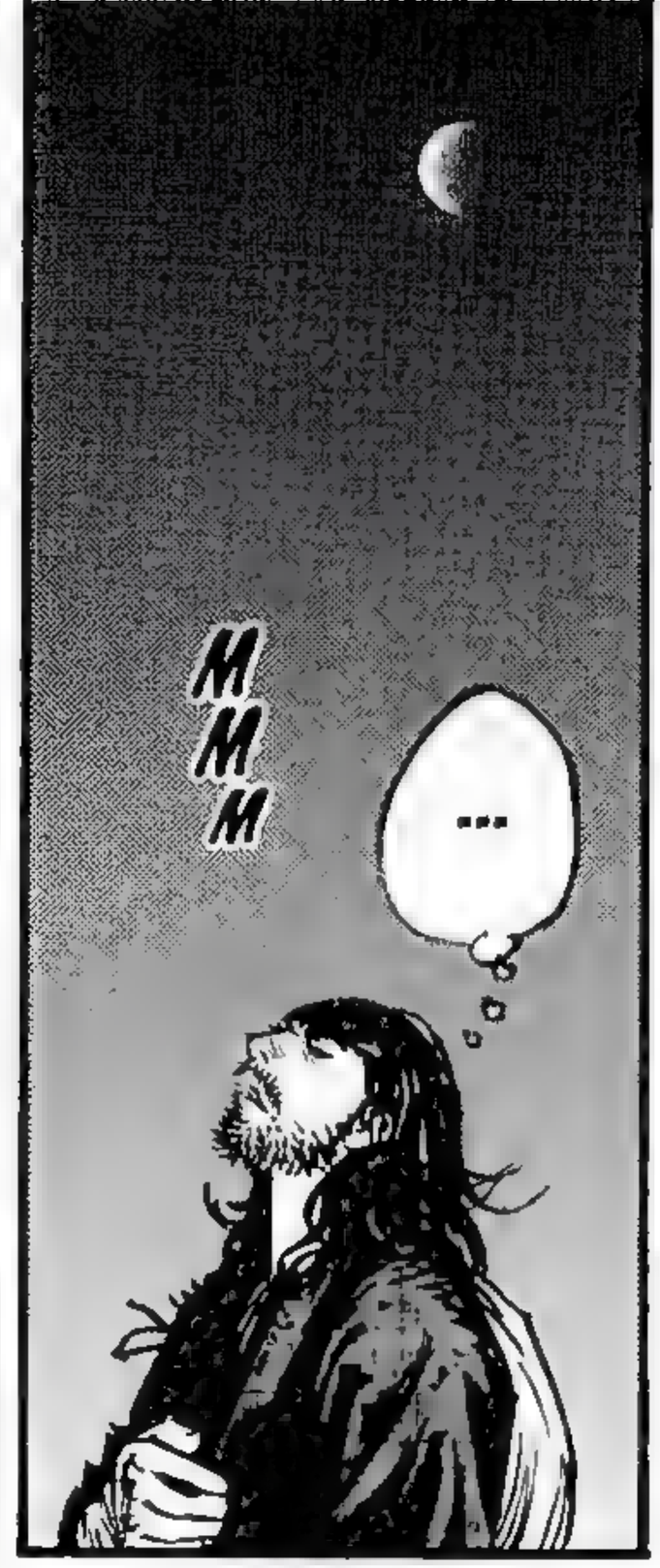
TIME...
...TO GO.

...



A WARM MEAL...
...BEFORE DARK.
GET TO A VILLAGE BEFORE DARK...
SOME PLACE WITH A ROOF... I'VE BEEN OUT HERE IN THE WILD TOO LONG.

...!

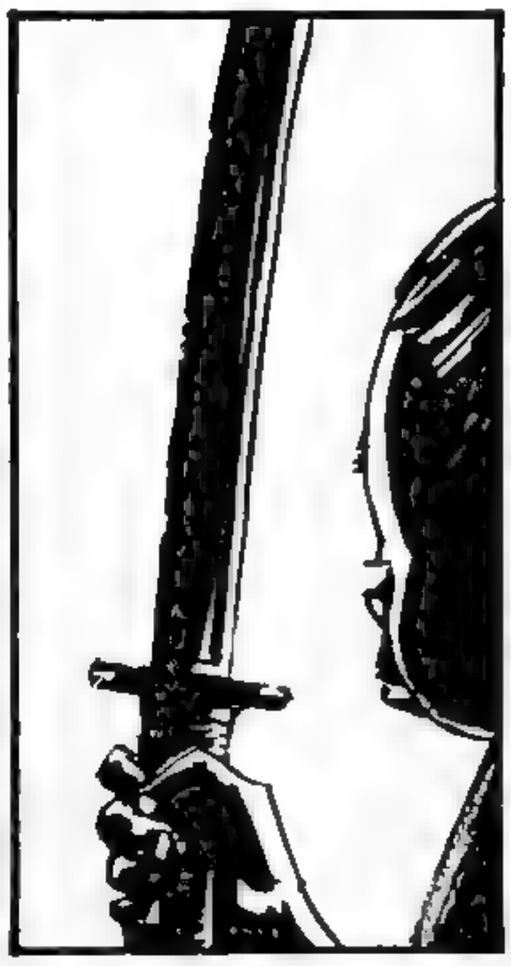

MMM
...

SOMEONE'S COOKING...
IT'S NEARBY ...

AND ALSO...

...SHARPEN-
ING A
SWORD...

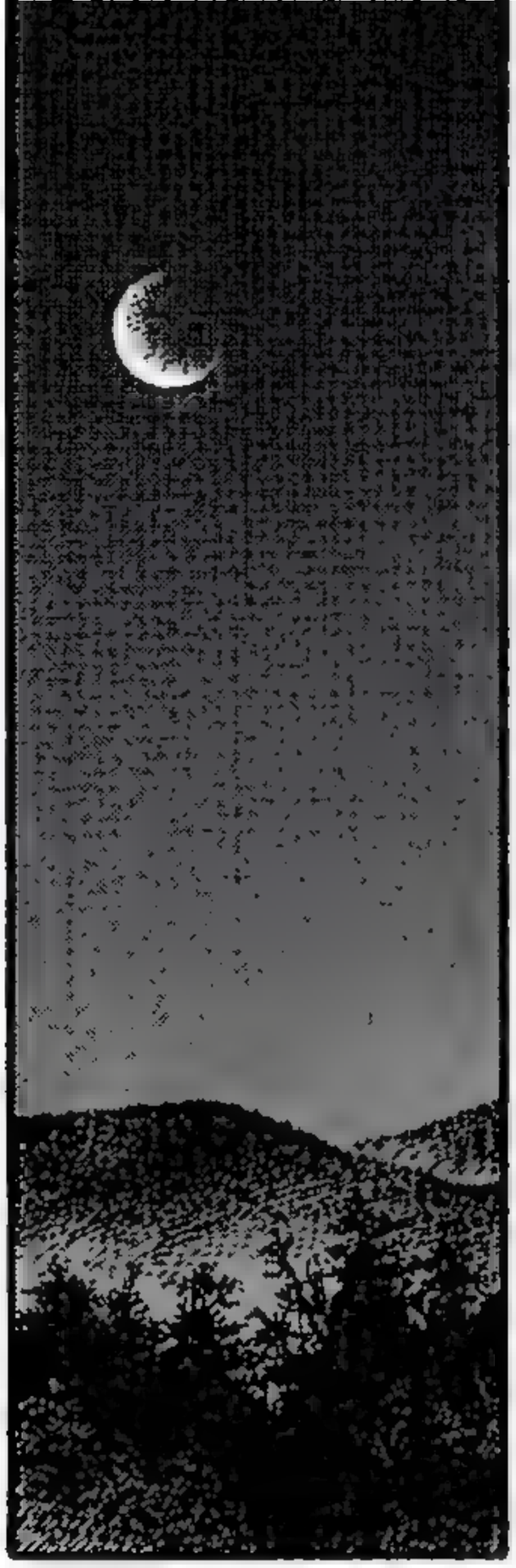
RACCOON...?
A KID...



?!
YOU'RE HOLDING IT TOO TIGHT.

THUD

WHO'S THAT YOU'RE GOING TO CUT?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, KID?
YOUR FATHER?
MY FATHER.



HE'S TOO HEAVY FOR ME TO CARRY TO HIS GRAVE...
SO I...

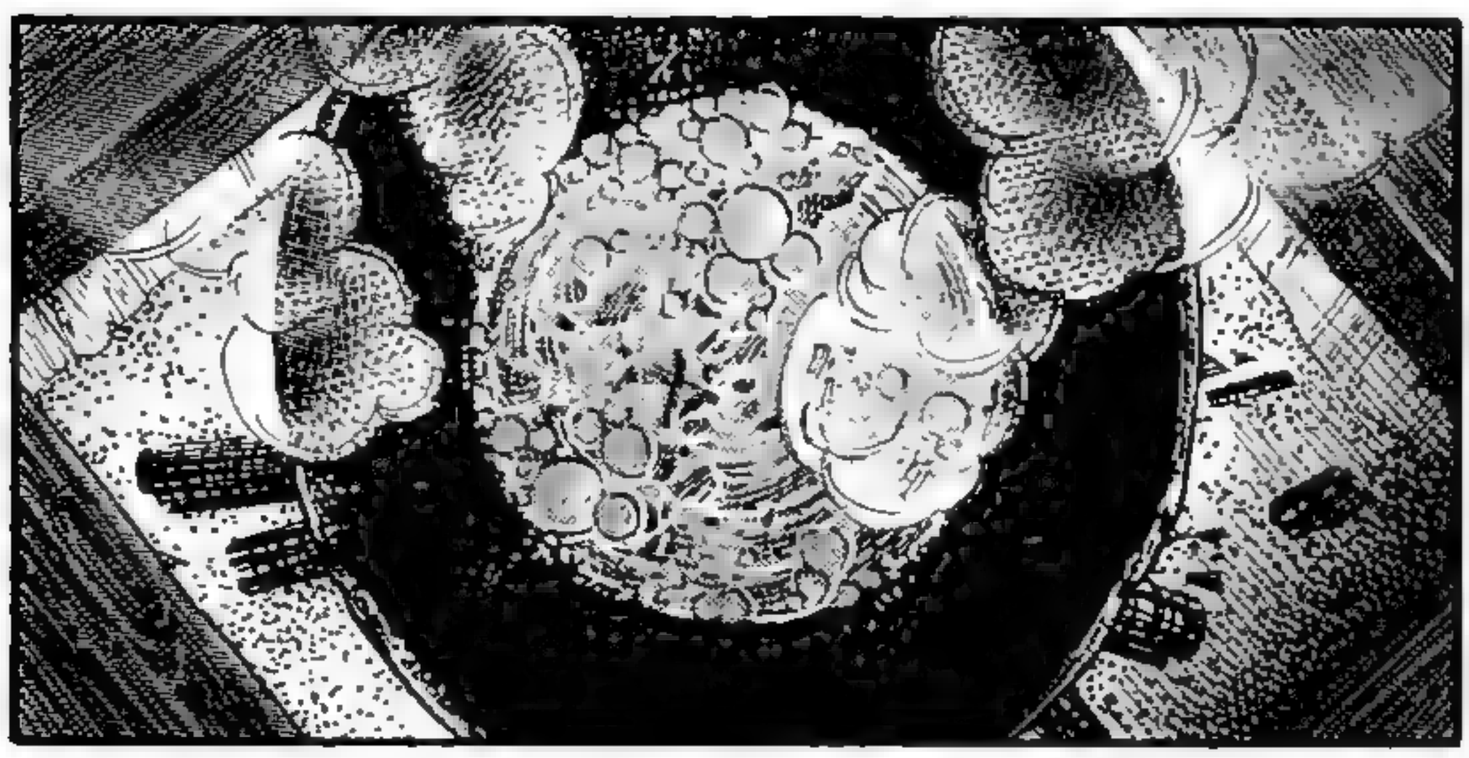
BUT... HE'S YOUR FATHER.

SAY...

WHM
WHM

DO YOU NEED A PLACE TO STAY?

I DON'T MIND.

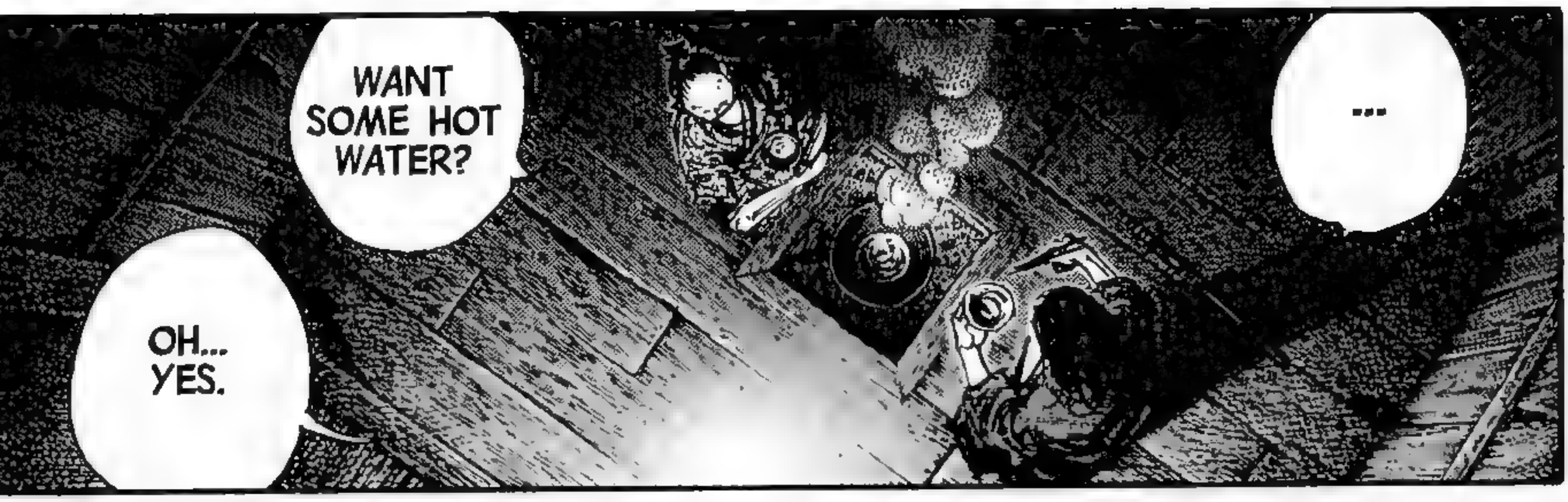


AHEM
THANKS, KID.
I APPRECI-ATE IT.

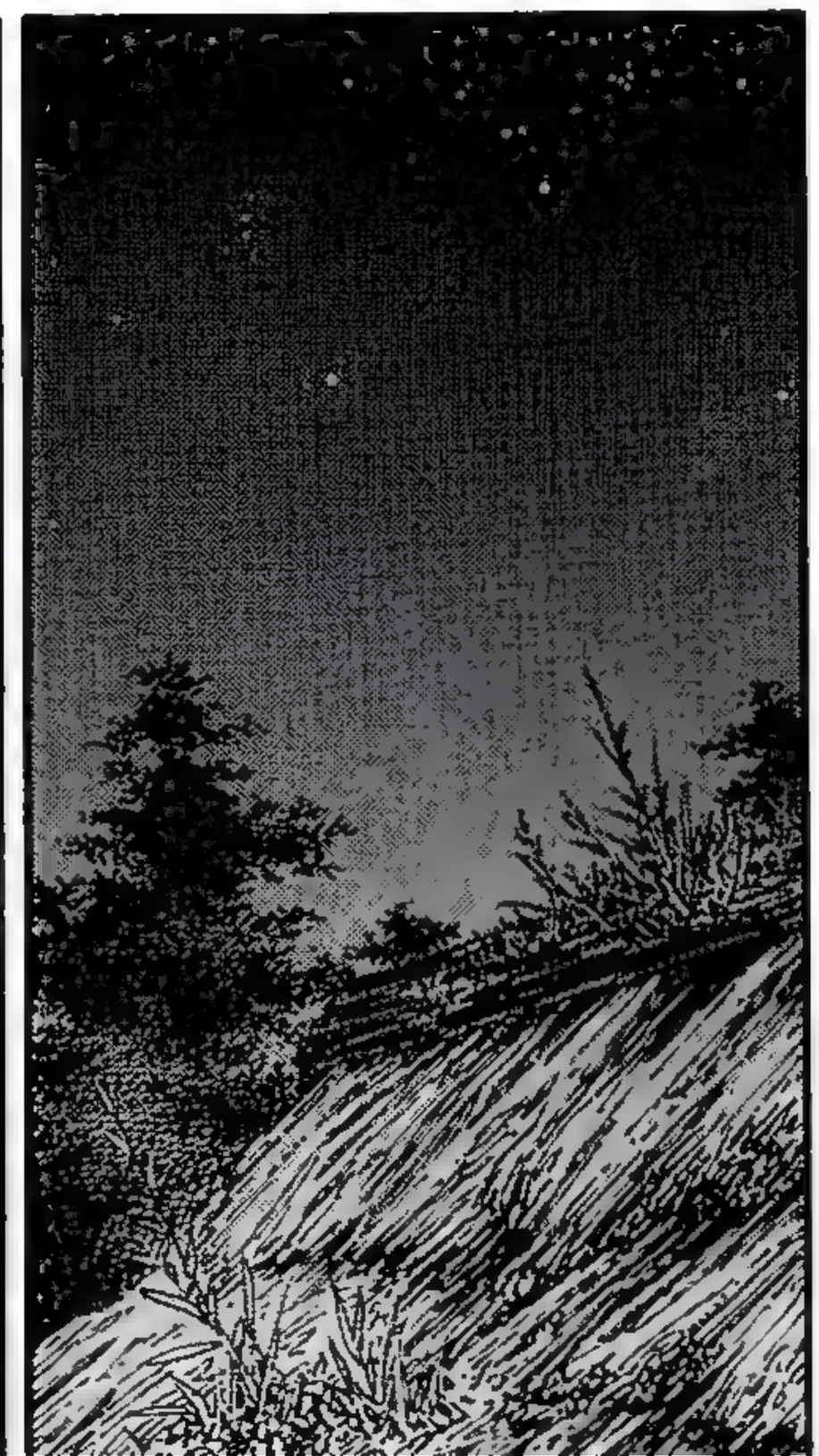
HM?
KLIPP

WHAT'S THIS?

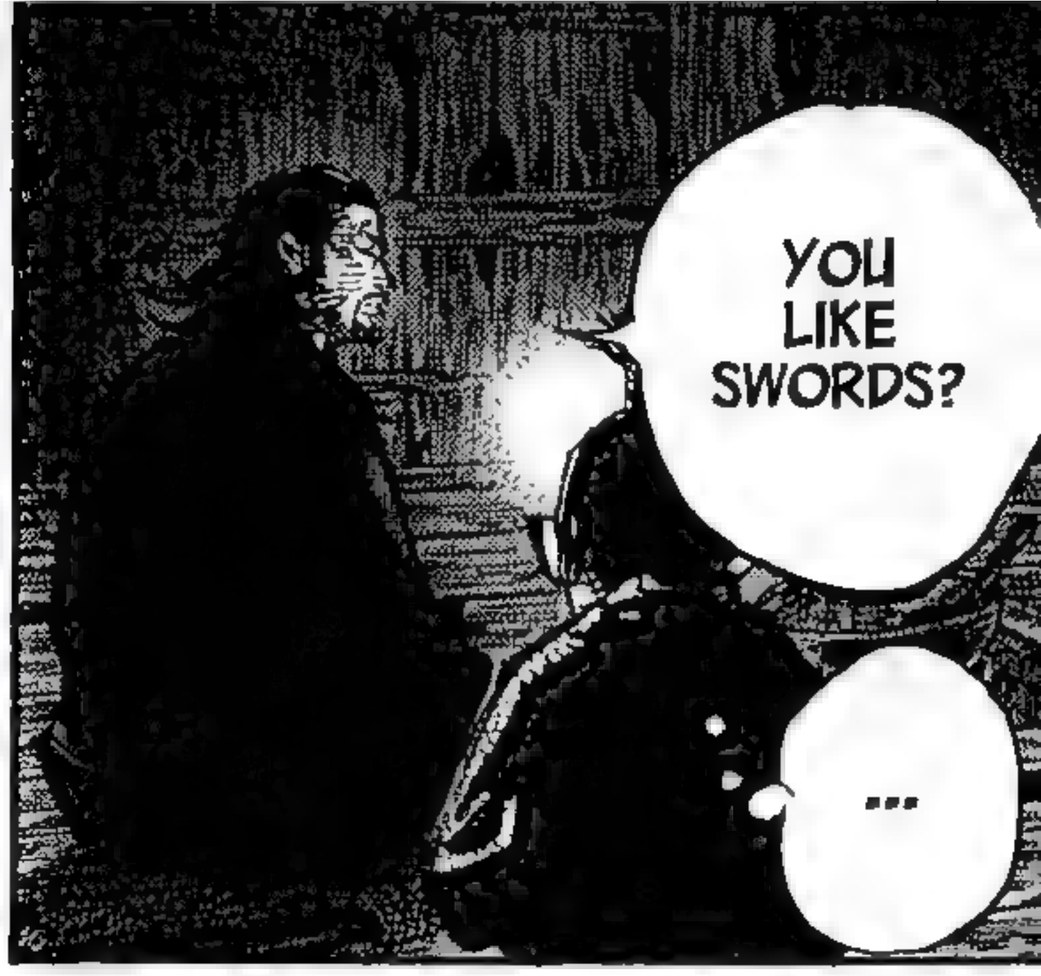
SLRRP

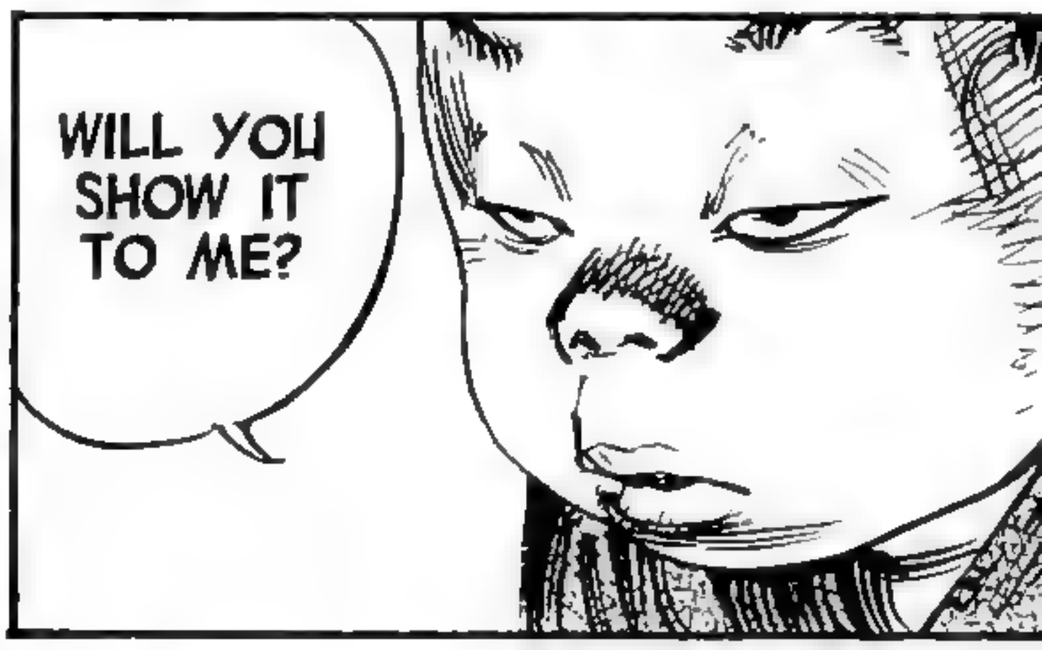

WANT SOME HOT WATER?
...
OH... YES.

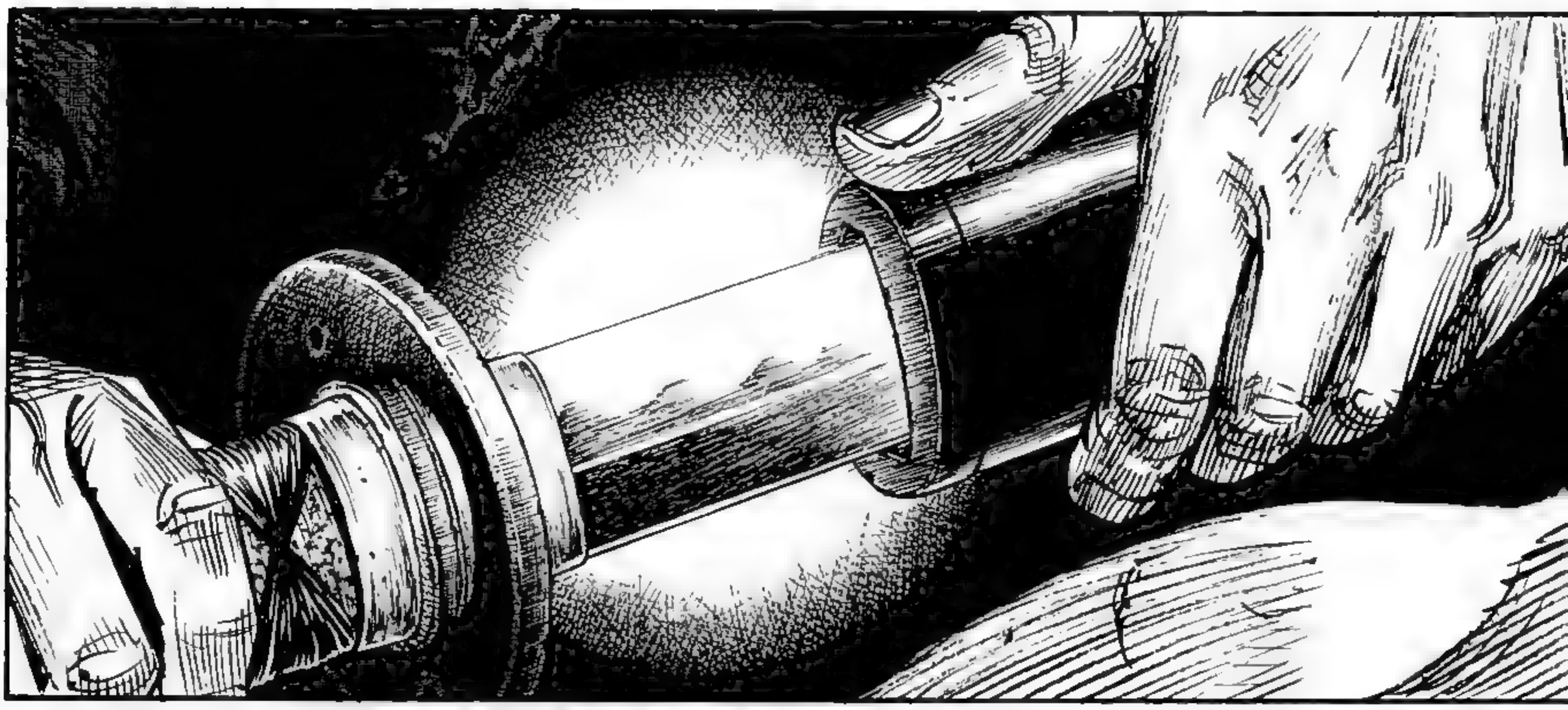
...
STARE
HM?



FIZZ

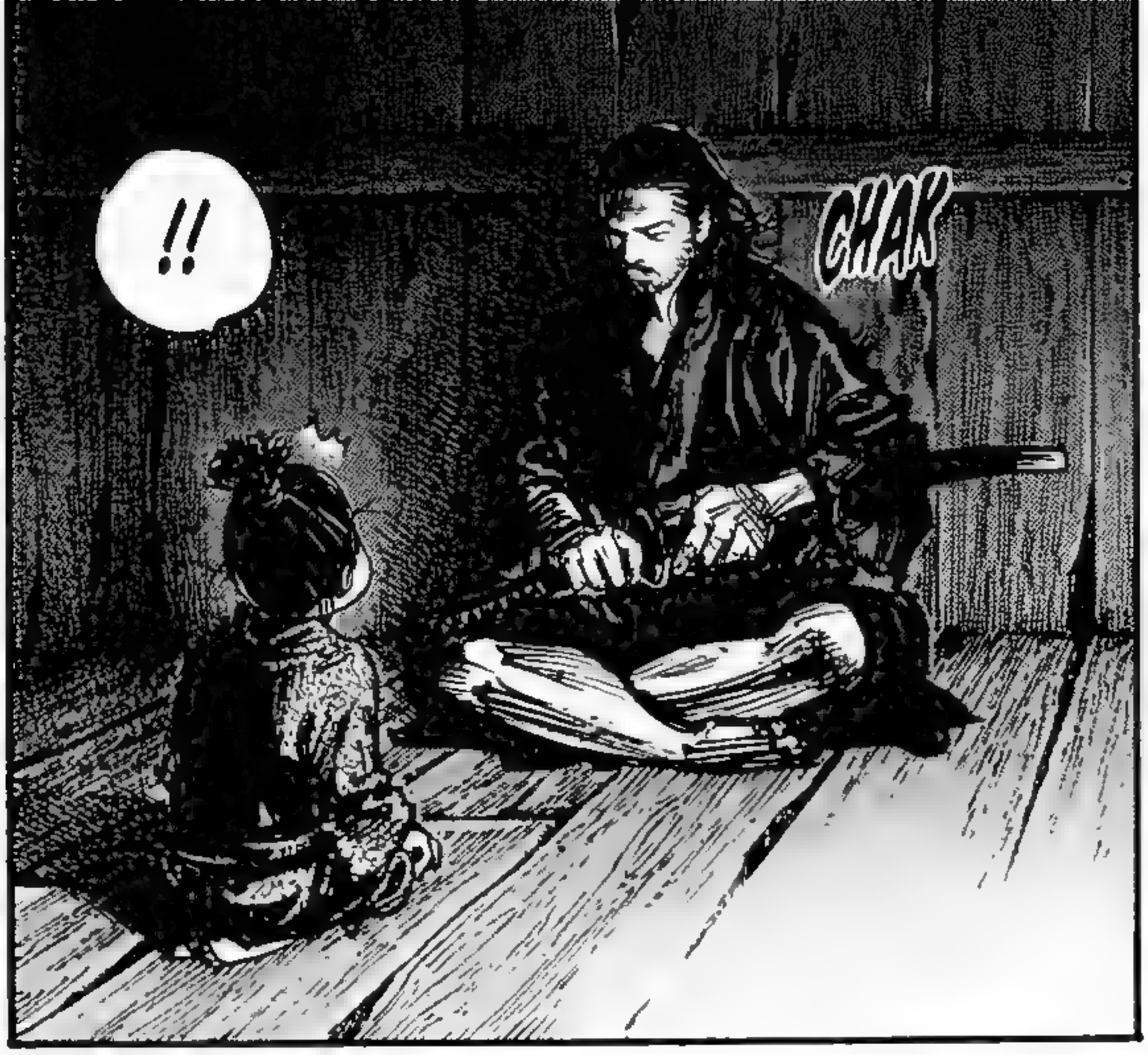

YOU LIKE SWORDS?
...


WILL YOU SHOW IT TO ME?



...

NO NEED FOR YOU TO SEE IT.
FORGET IT.
WHY?

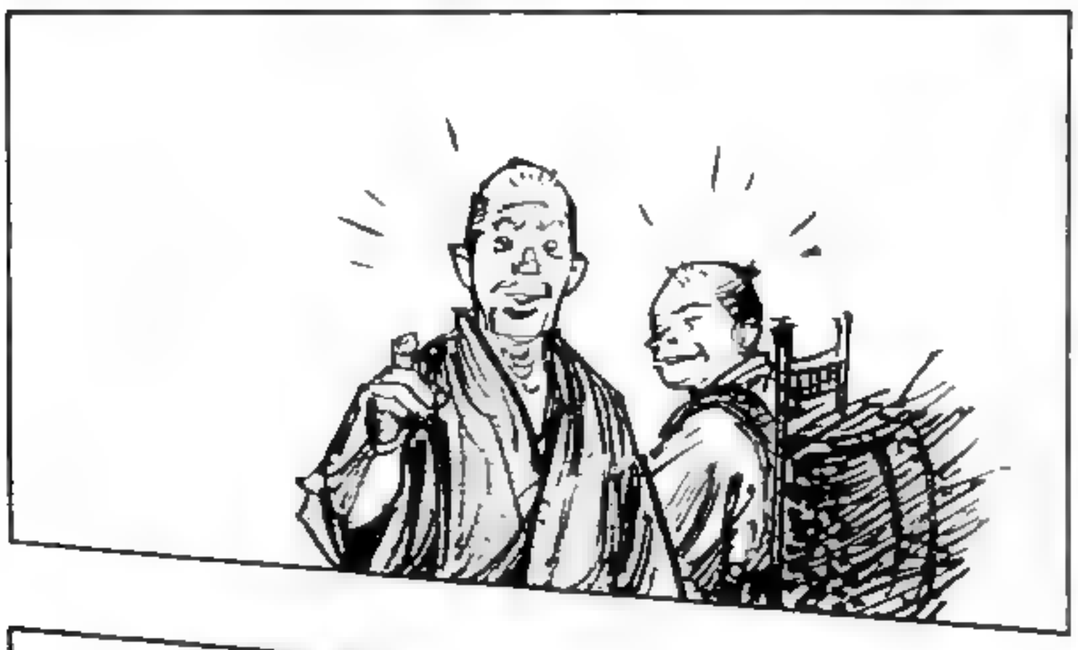

!!
CHAK

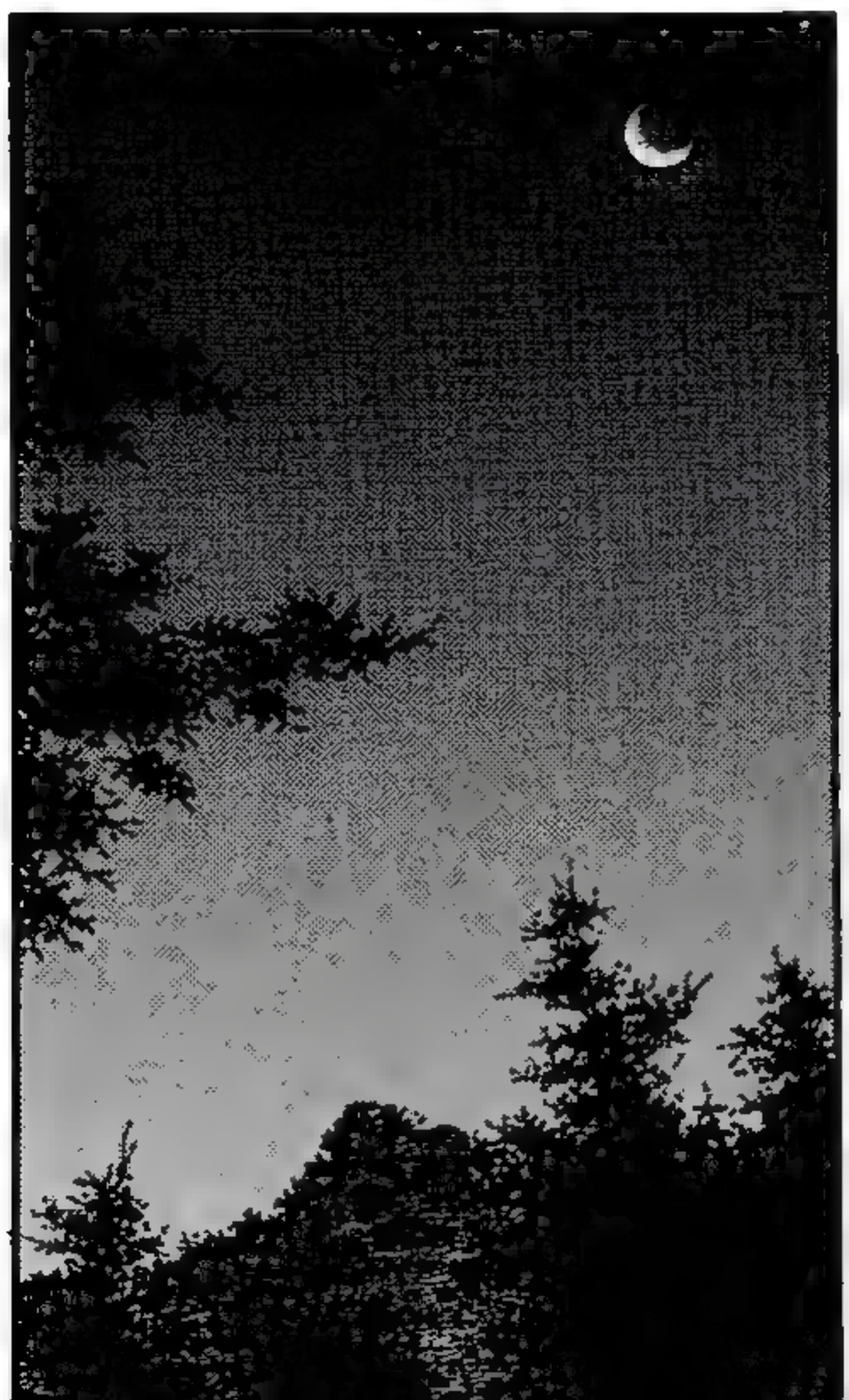
NOW GOOD NIGHT.
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY SWORDFIGHTS IN YOUR FUTURE.

HIS FATHER MAY HAVE TURNED INTO A CORPSE, BUT STILL...
WHAT A STRANGE KID.

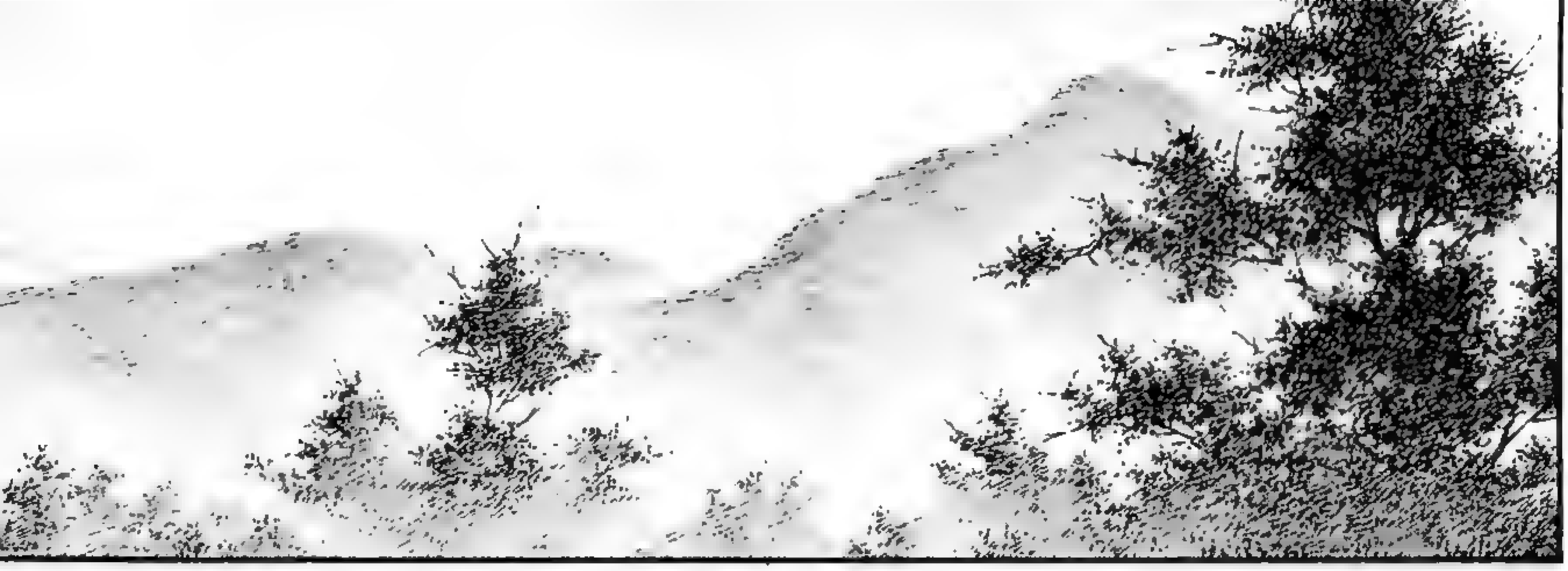
HOW HEARTLESS...

IF I HADN'T STOPPED HIM, HE WOULD HAVE CHOPPED HIM UP... WHAT WAS HE THINKING?





COME TO THINK OF IT, I TRIED TO CUT DOWN MY FATHER TOO...



FATHER ...

...NNGH ...

...AIEE AIEE...

IT'S PRETTY BARREN.

IORI.

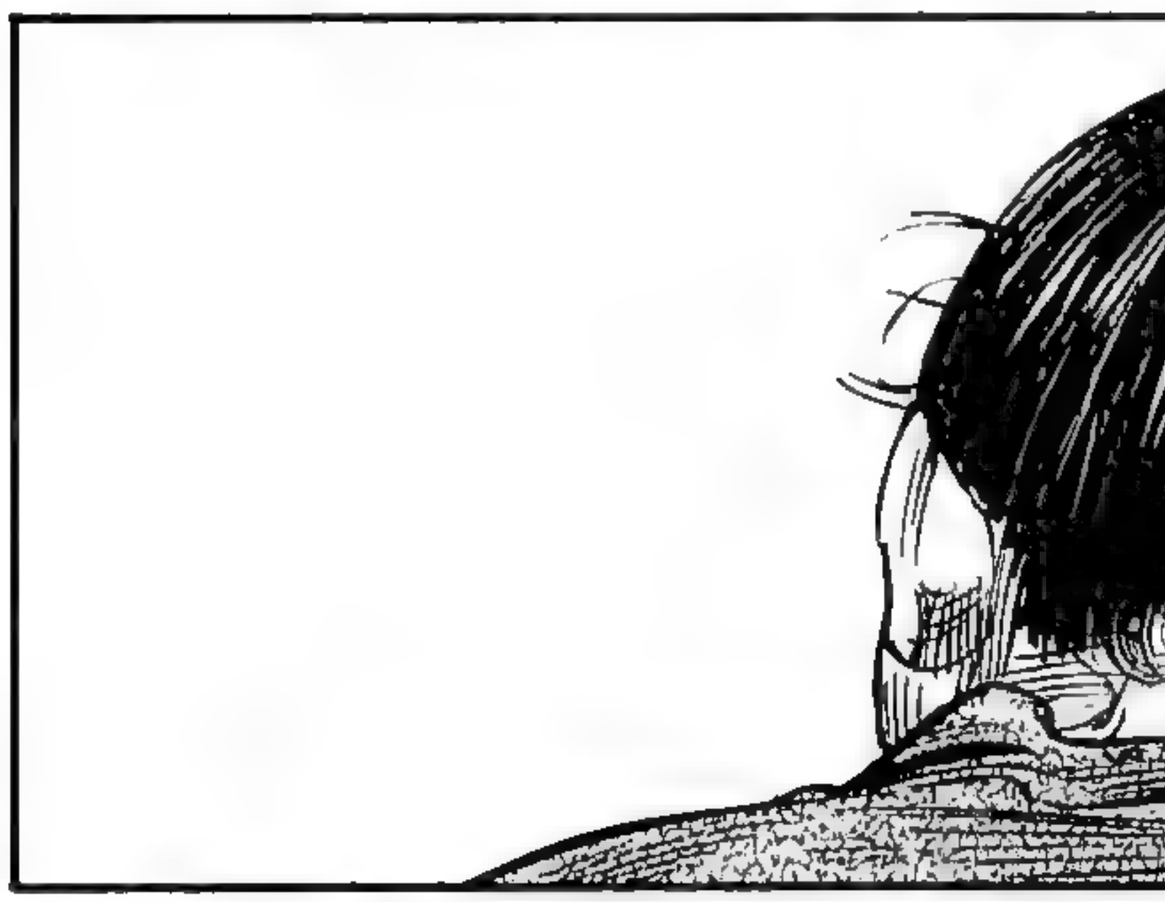
FWIP
FWIP
!
WHAT'S YOUR NAME, KID?

ARE YOU OF SAMURAI LINEAGE?
IORI?
A NOBLE NAME.

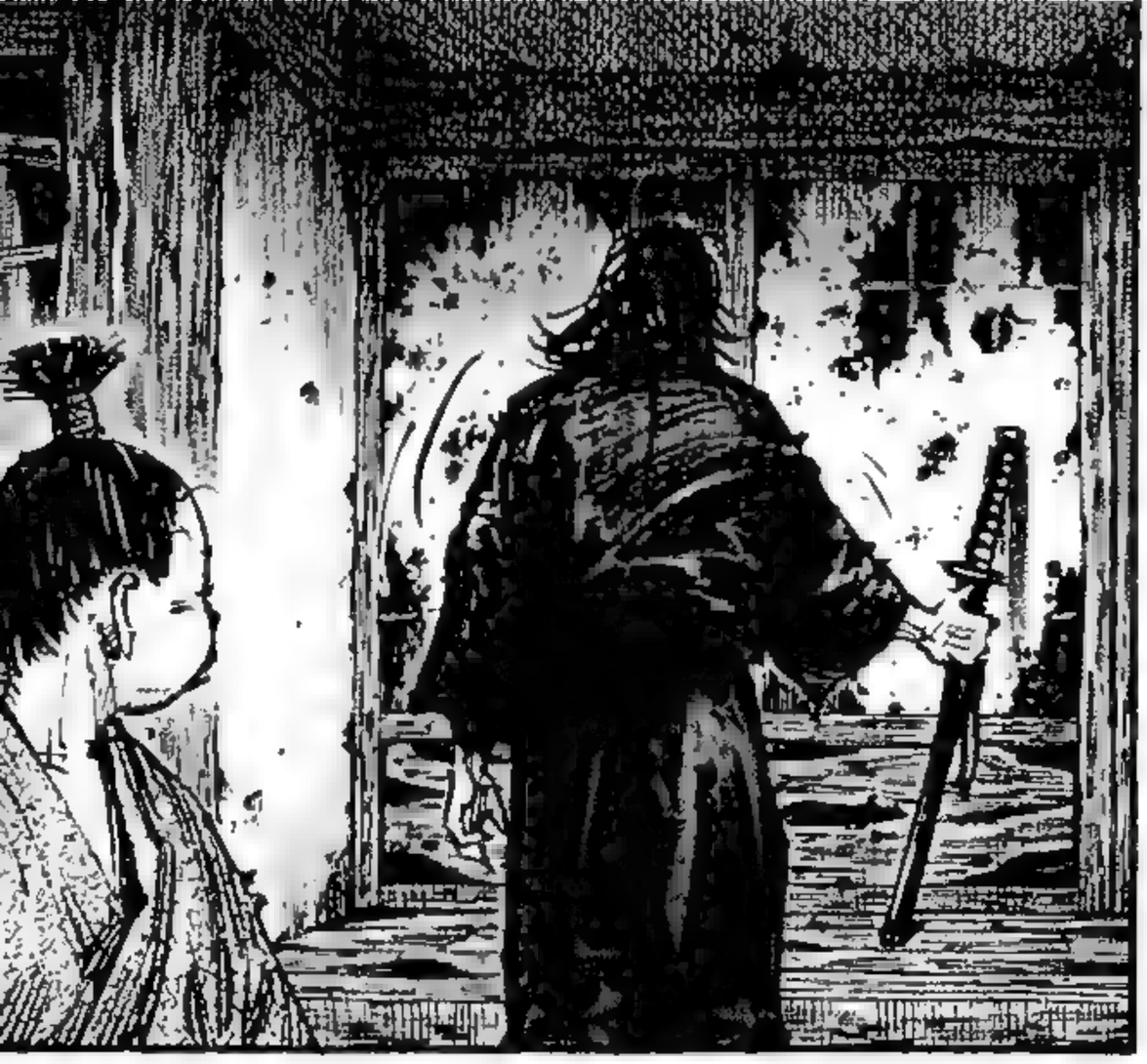
TUGG
?!

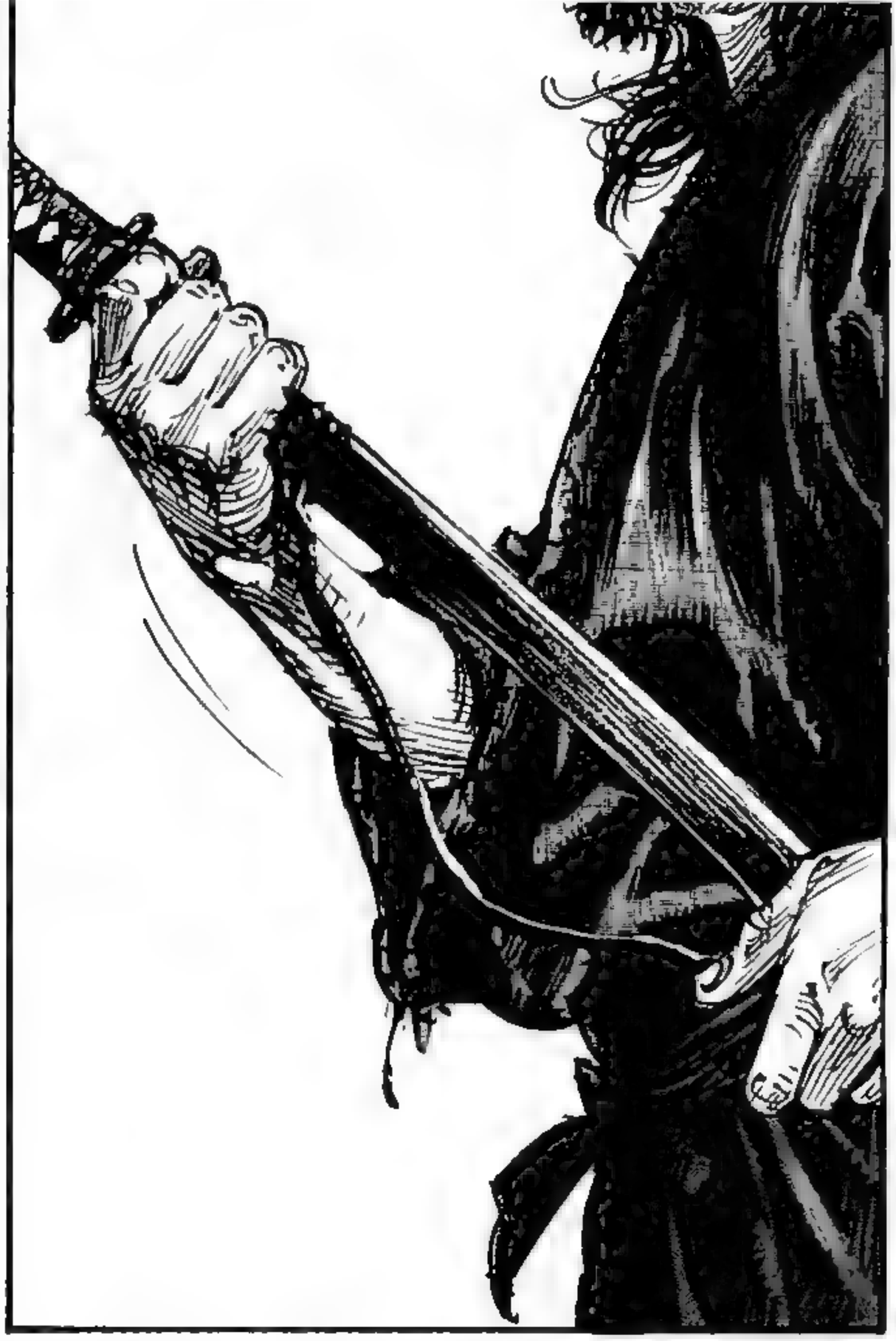
...

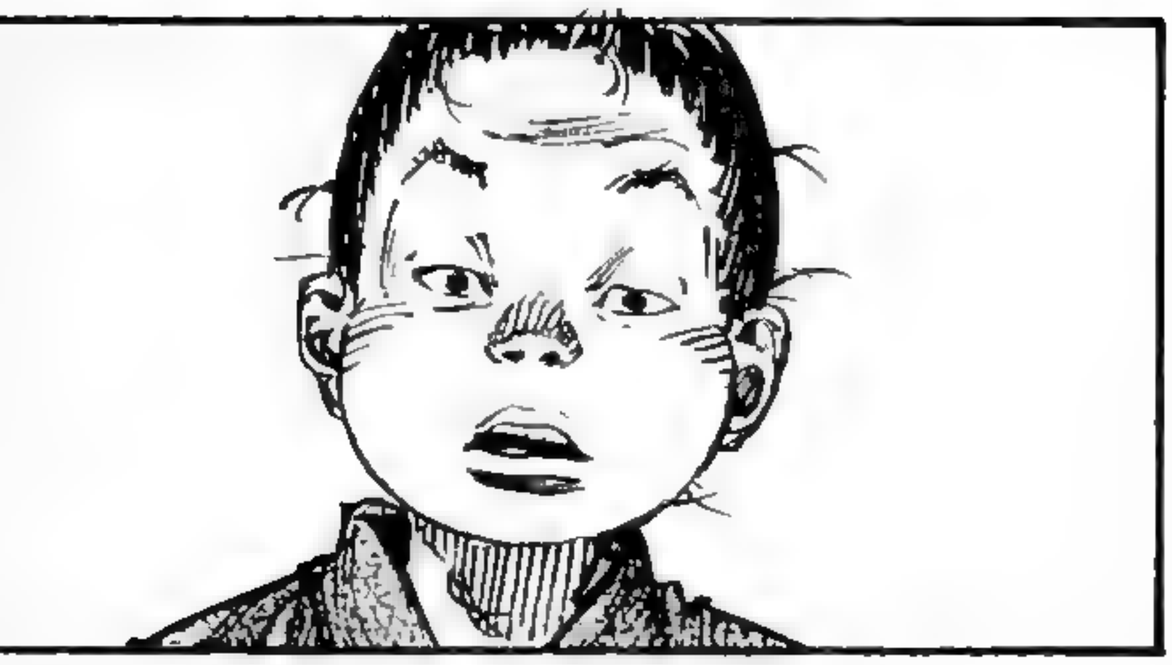
ARE YOU ALONE NOW?



...







AHEM

YOU CAN USE THIS LAND HE LEFT BEHIND.

YOU HAVE TO CREATE A PATH YOURSELF.

SOW THE SEEDS...

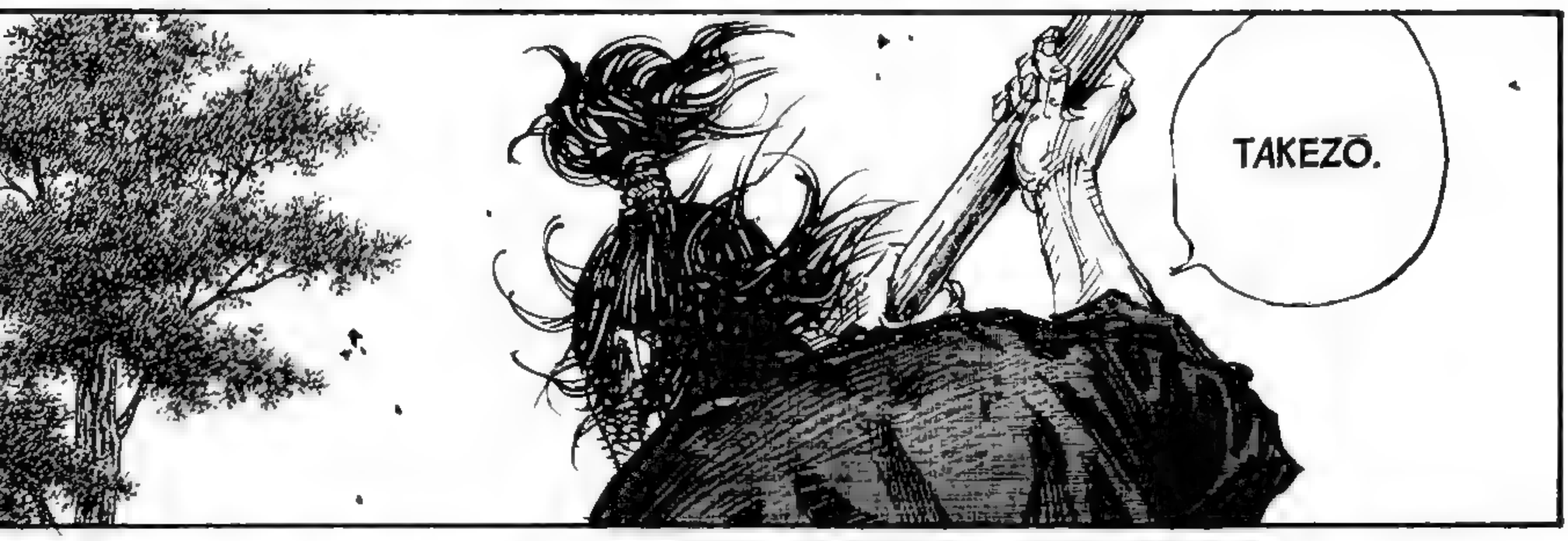
...FOR TOMORROW.

PLOW THE LAND, IORI.

MIYA-MOTO...
...

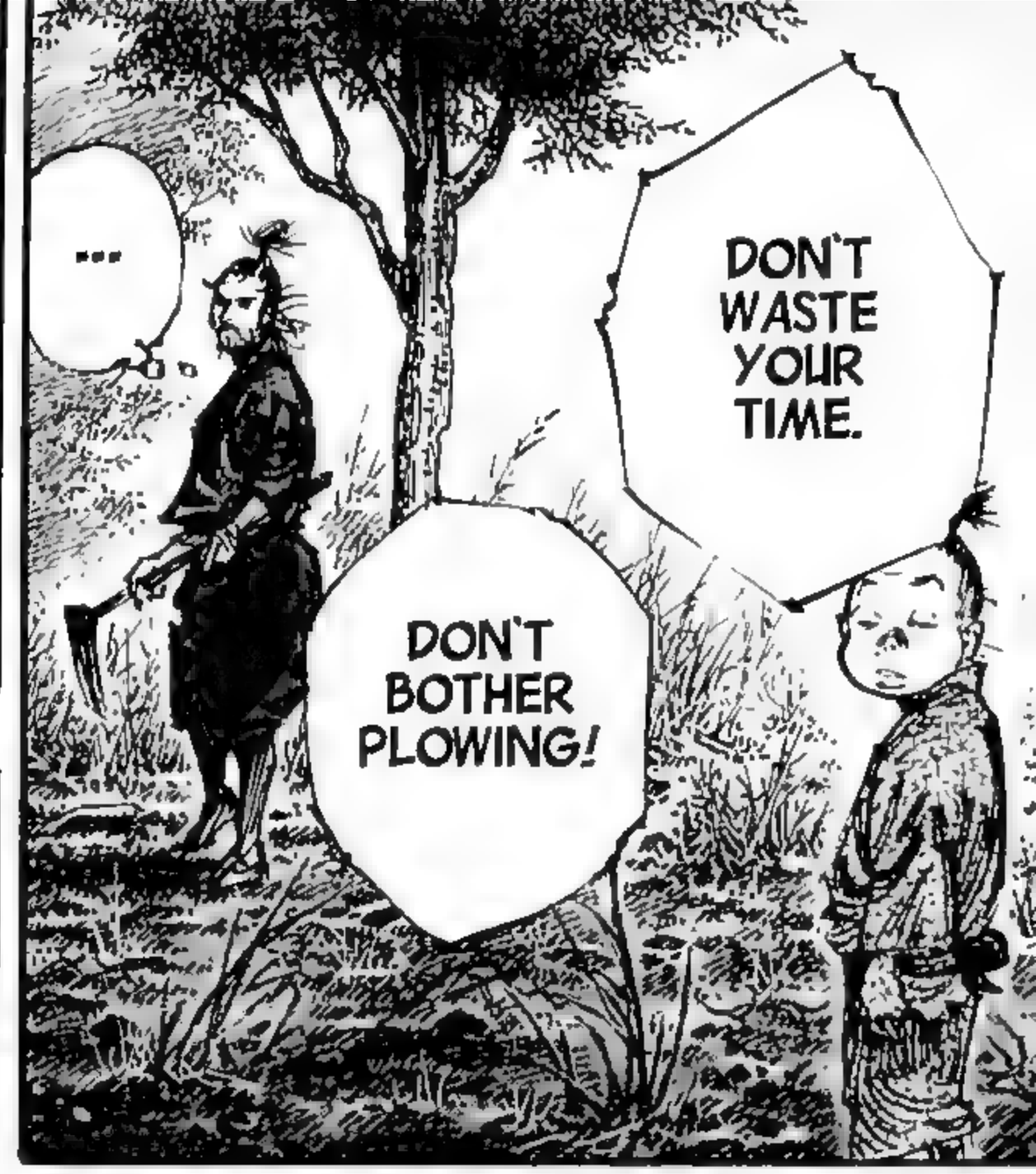
...WHAT YOUR NAME WAS.

I WAS WONDER-ING...


TAKEZŌ.

TAKEZŌ.

WHAT'S THAT SAMURAI DOING OVER THERE?
HUH?


...
DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME.
DON'T BOTHER PLOWING!

...
YOU FOOL! FORGET IT.
LEAVE IT ALONE! I'M TELLING YOU FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.
THAT LAND'S USELESS!

...THEN HARVEST.
PLOW...
THAT'S LIFE, IORI.
STOP EATING BUGS.

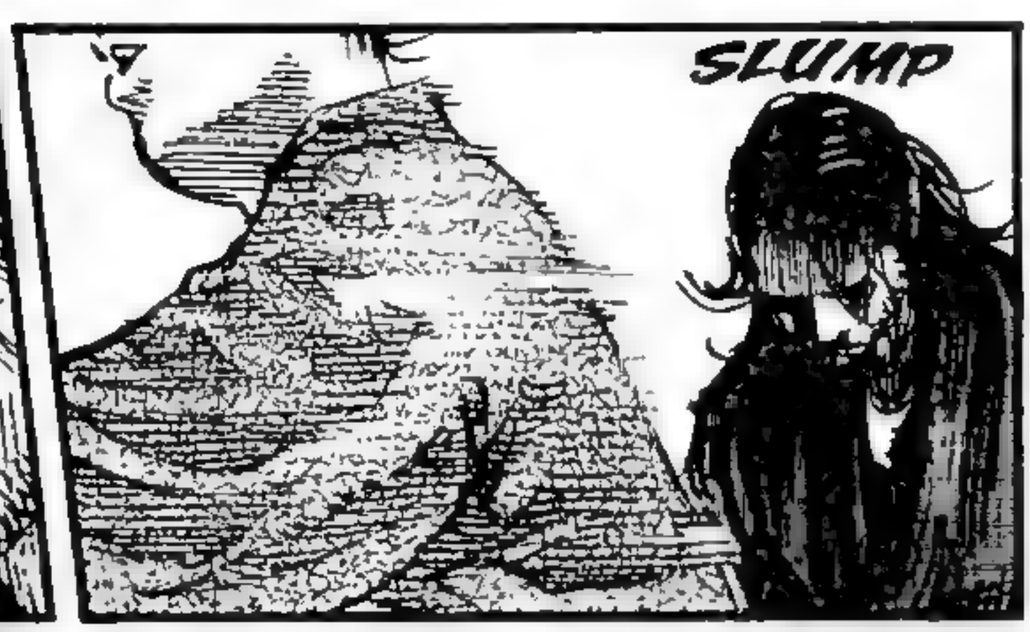
SEE, IORI.

I DID IT.

FSSSHH
WHAT?!
IT'S FLOODED.

GLUGG
GLUGG

THE FIELD...


SLUMP

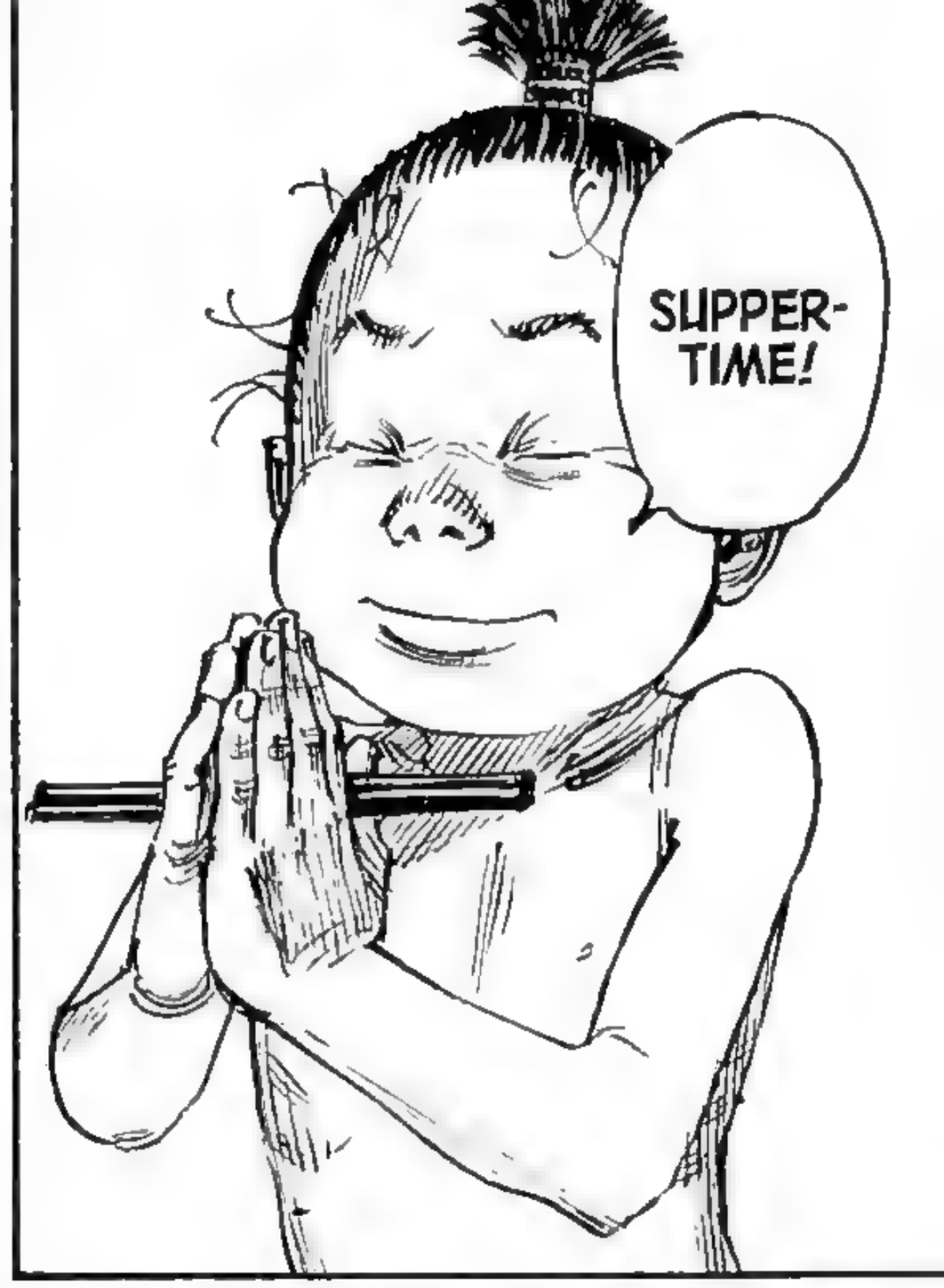
YEAHHH

PLIP
PLIP
PLIP
PLIP

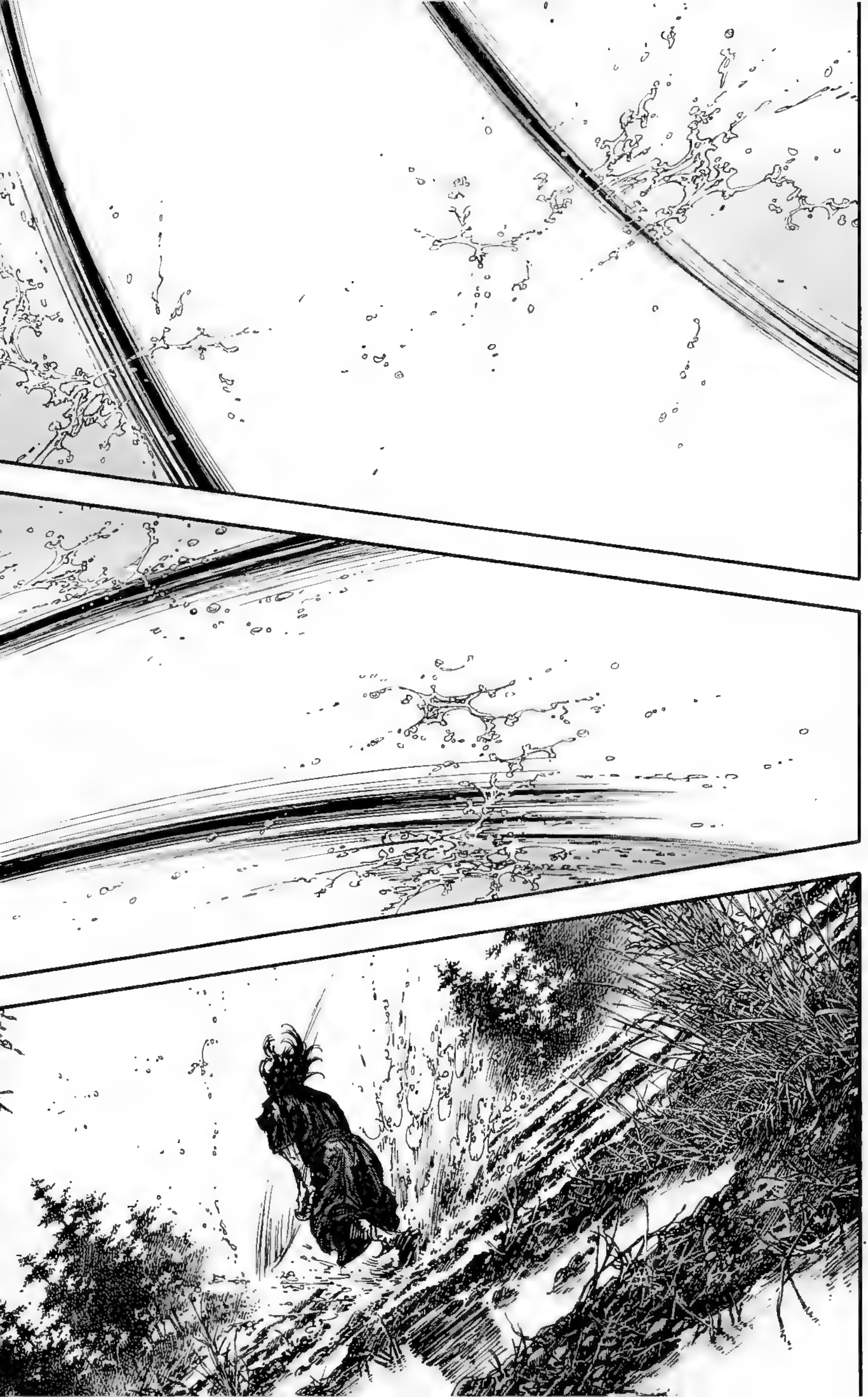
GLUG
GLUG

...

DELI-
CIOUS!

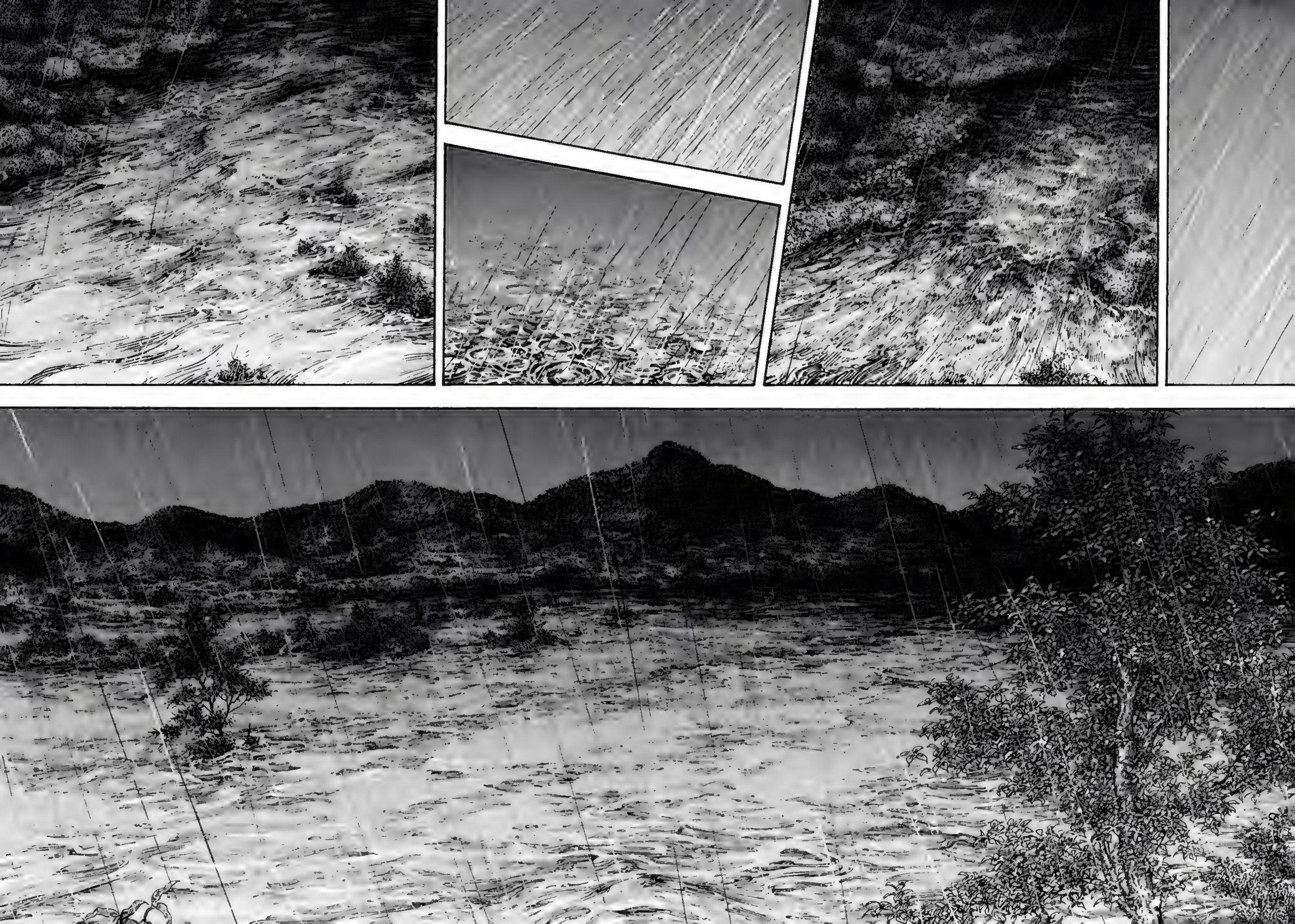

SUPPER-TIME!

KRRIK



...
HYUUU
IORI...
I'M FAMISHED!

#303 | Flood Soil

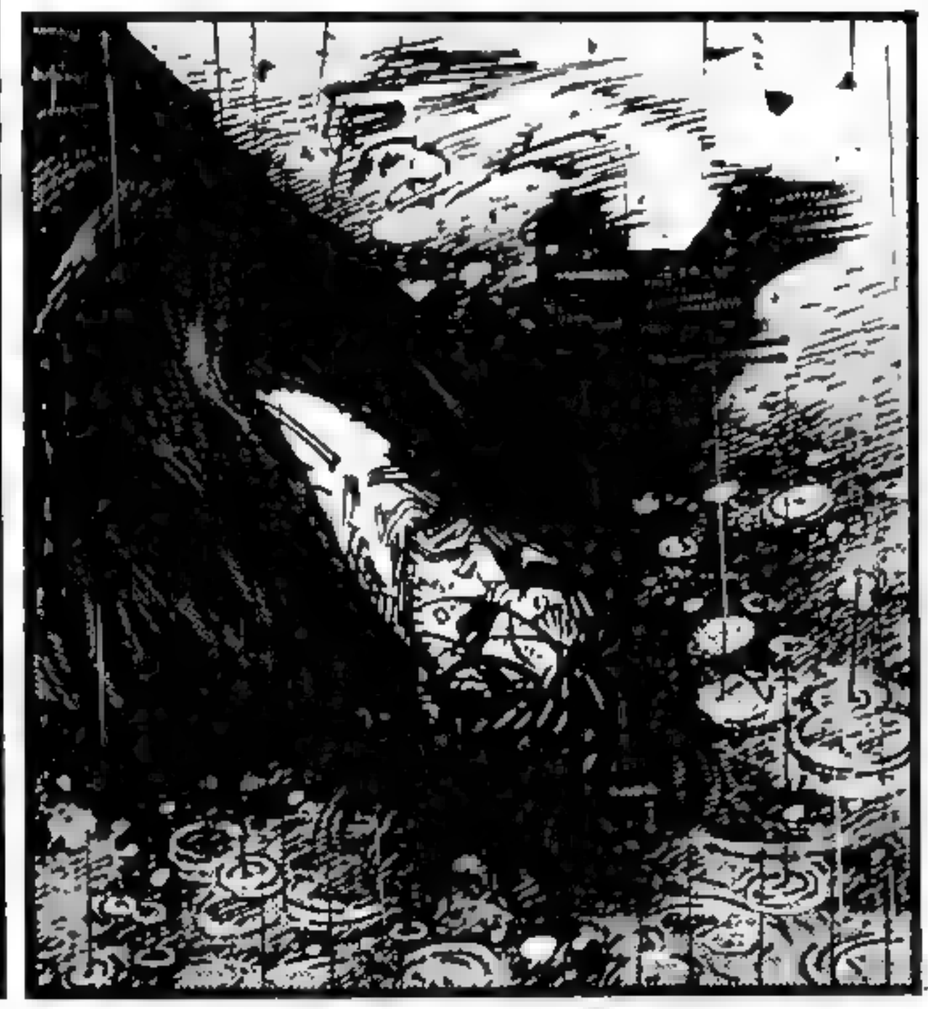


NOT AGAIN!!

DAMN IT!

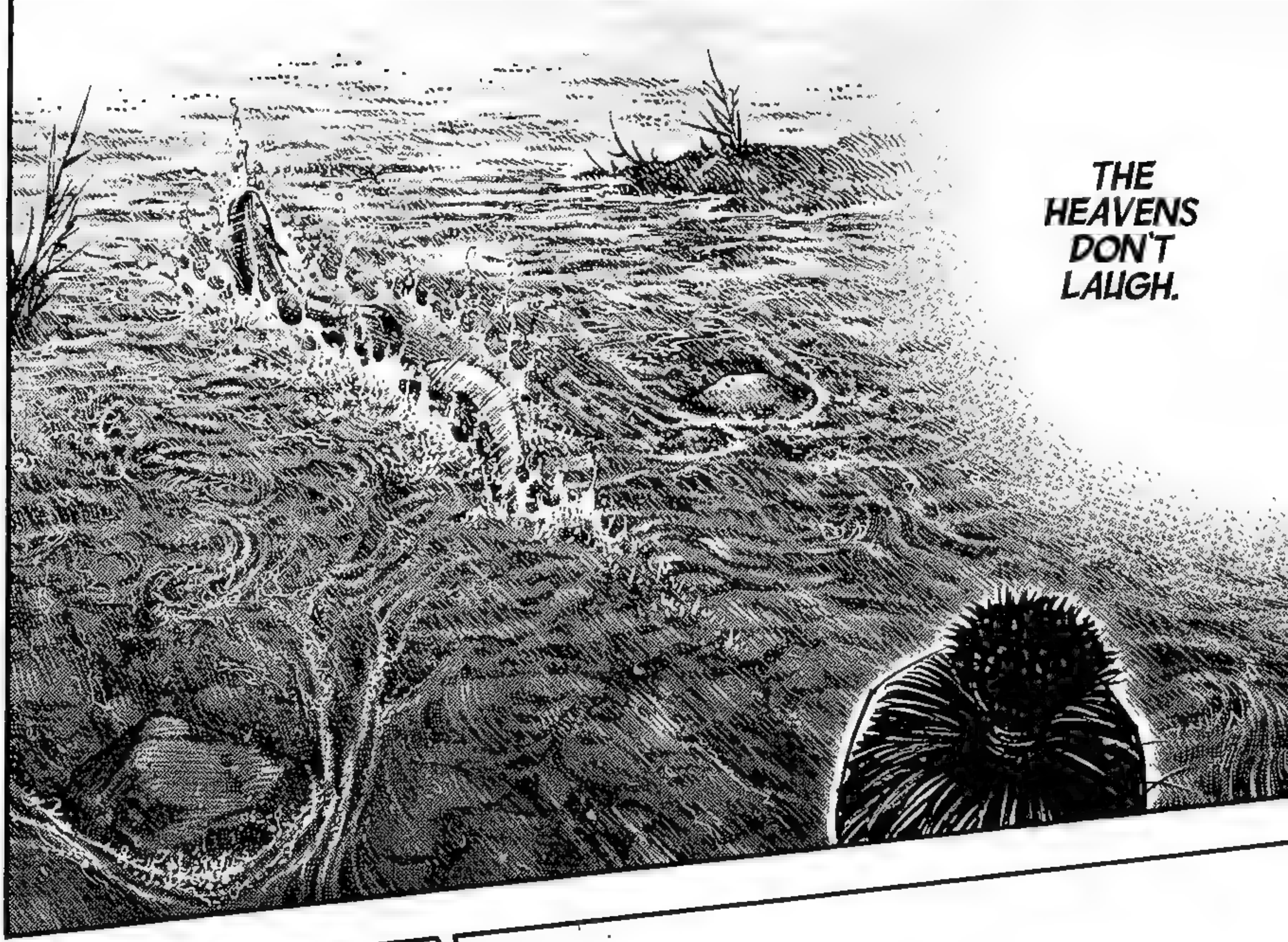
YOU LAUGH AT ME!?

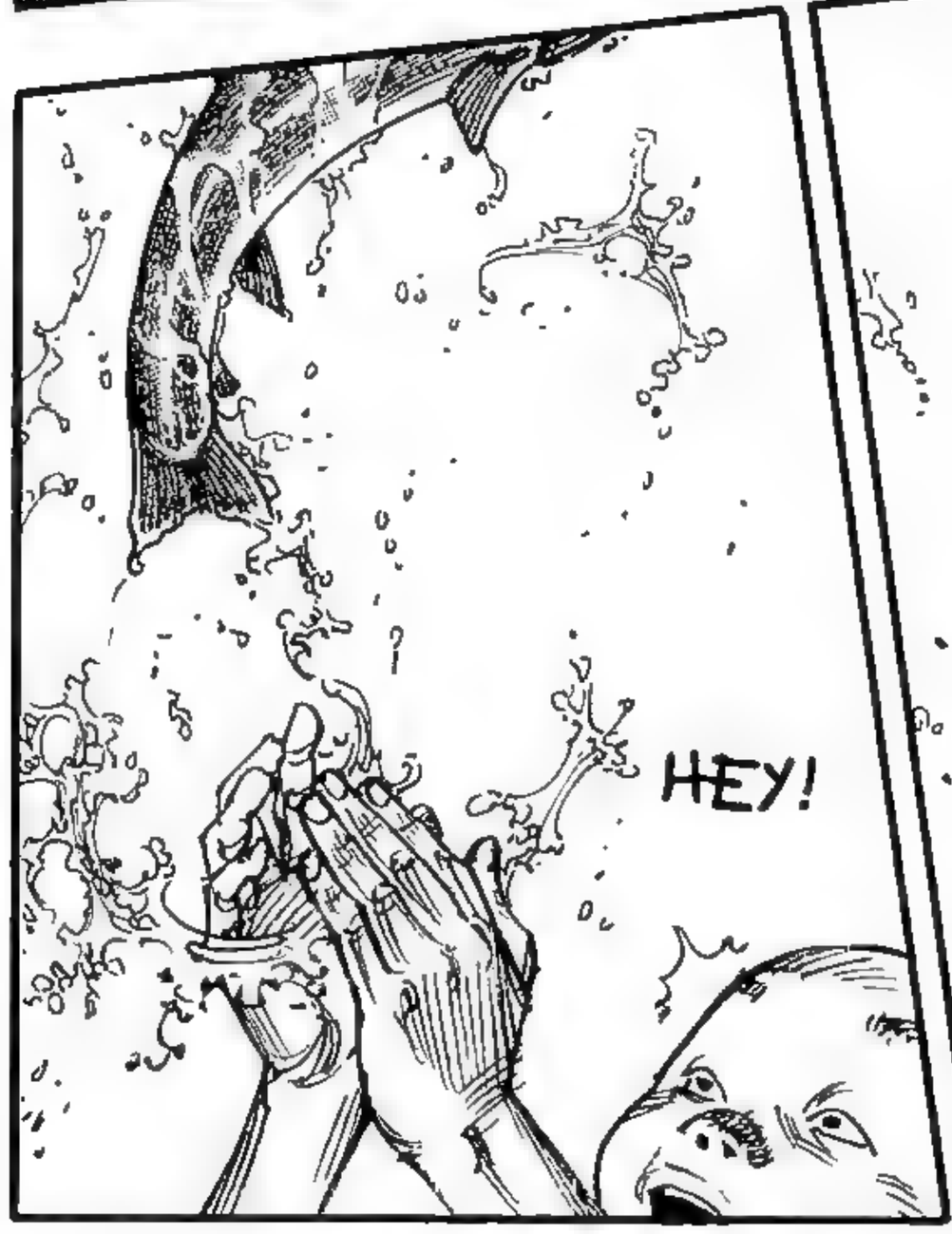
PLIP
PLIP
...



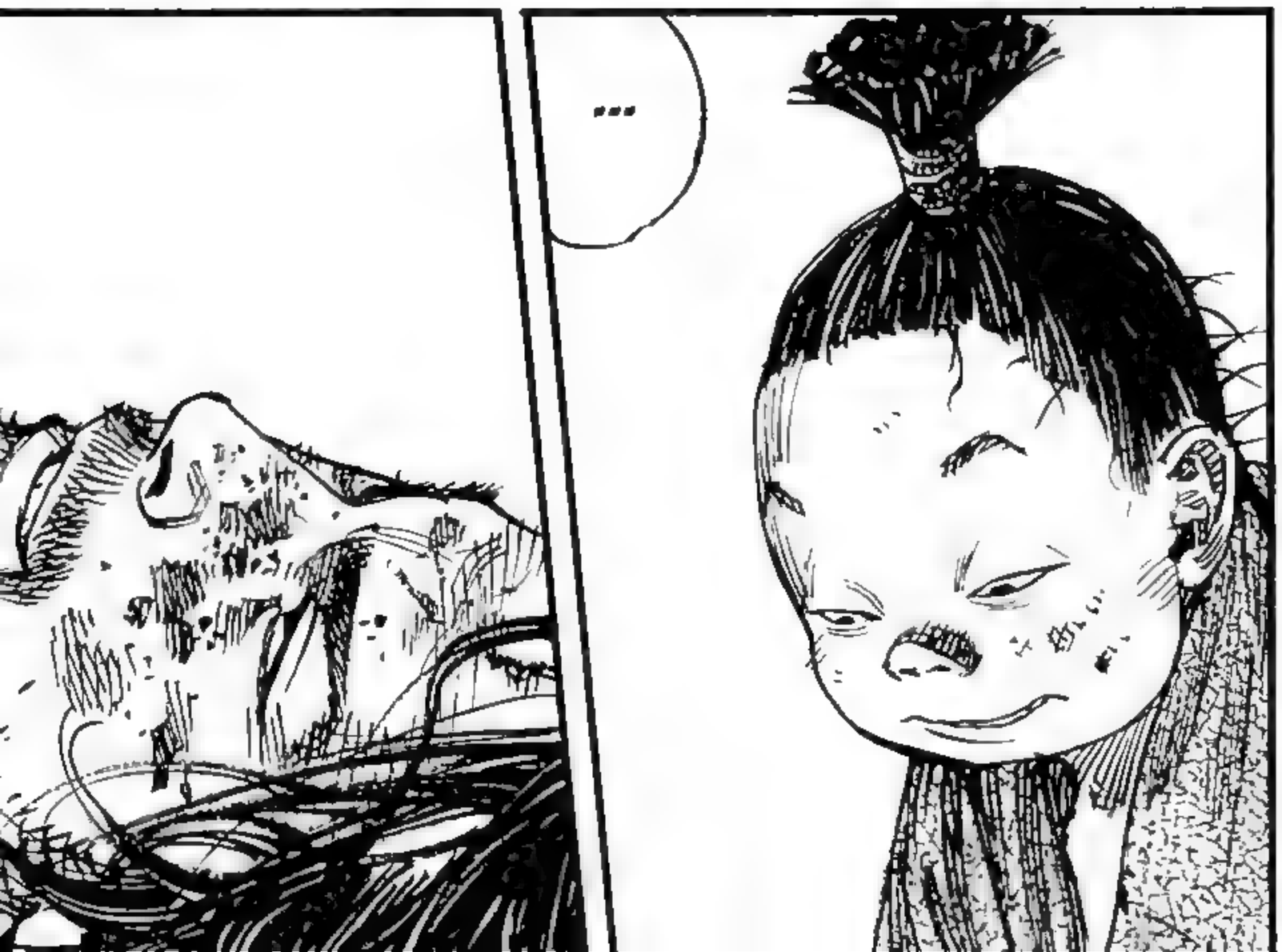
PEOPLE CAN LAUGH.
NO...

ONLY YOU CAN BE AFRAID.


THE HEAVENS DON'T LAUGH.


HEY!

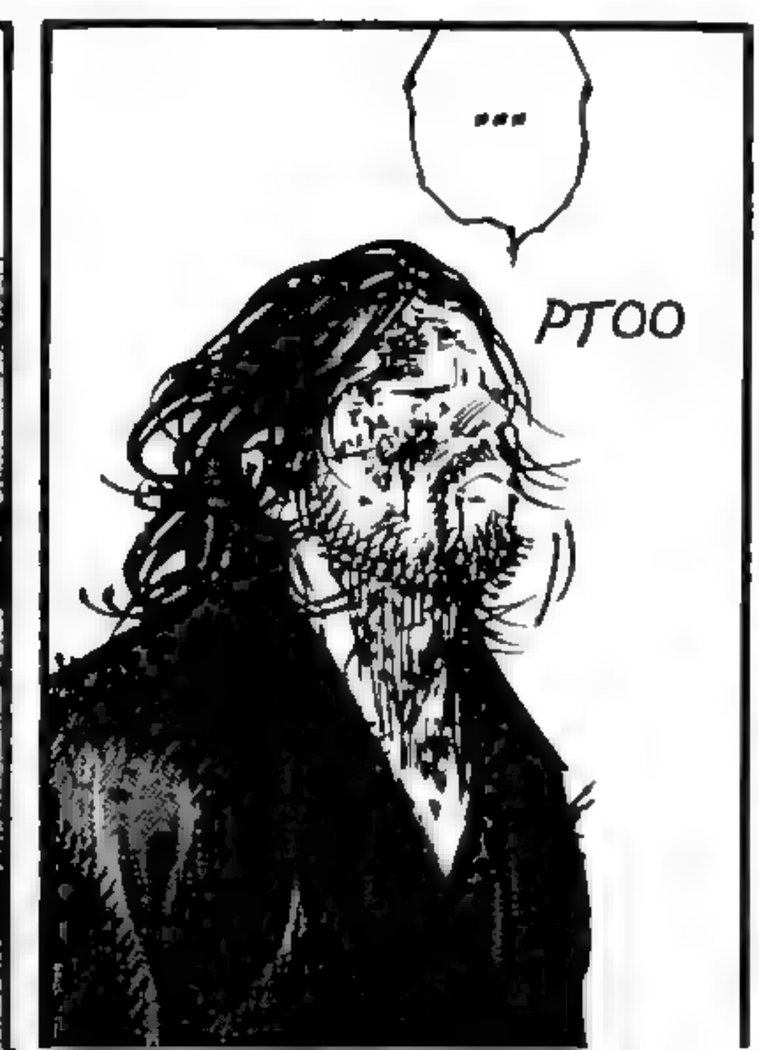
PLUP

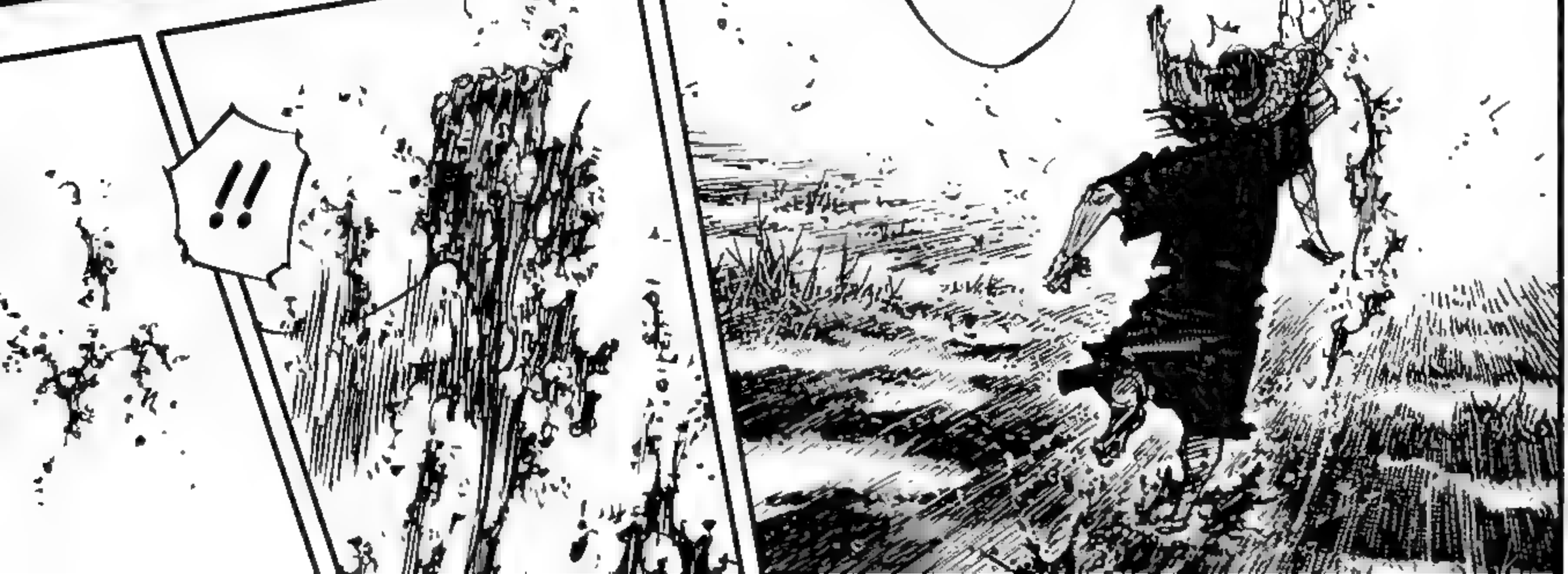


!!

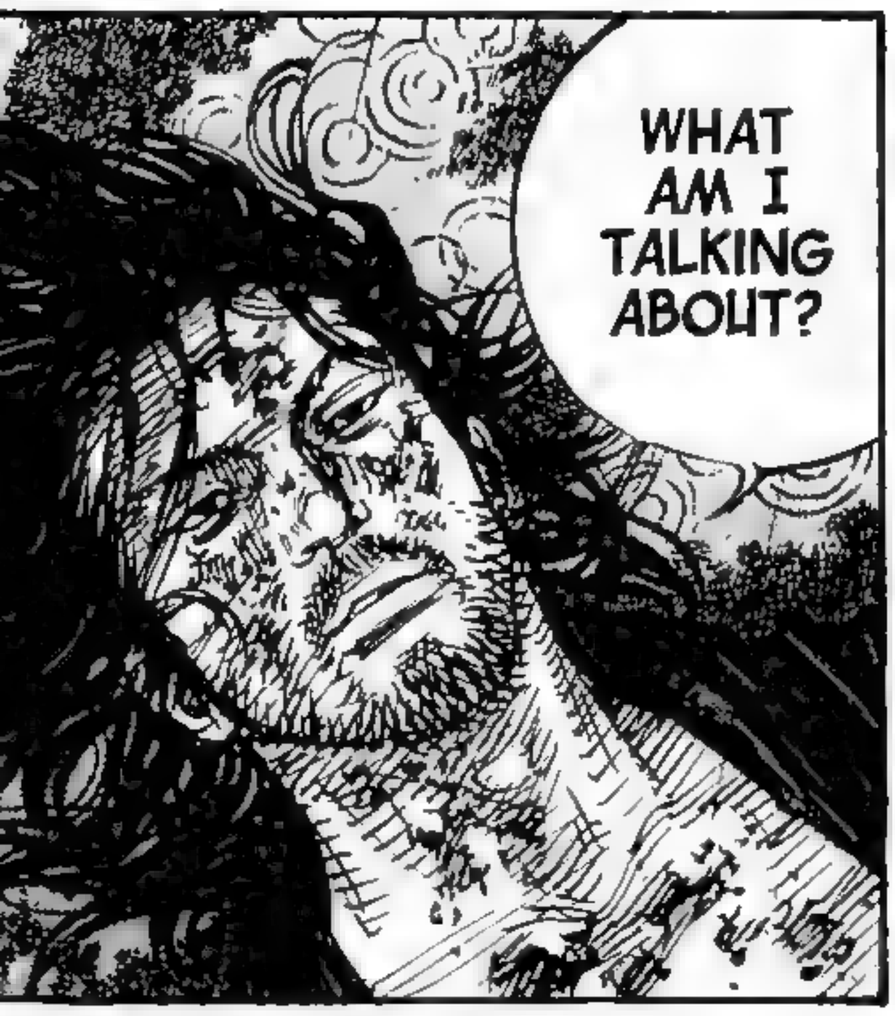
AARGH

HAK
HAKK
KOFF
HAK


...
PTOO



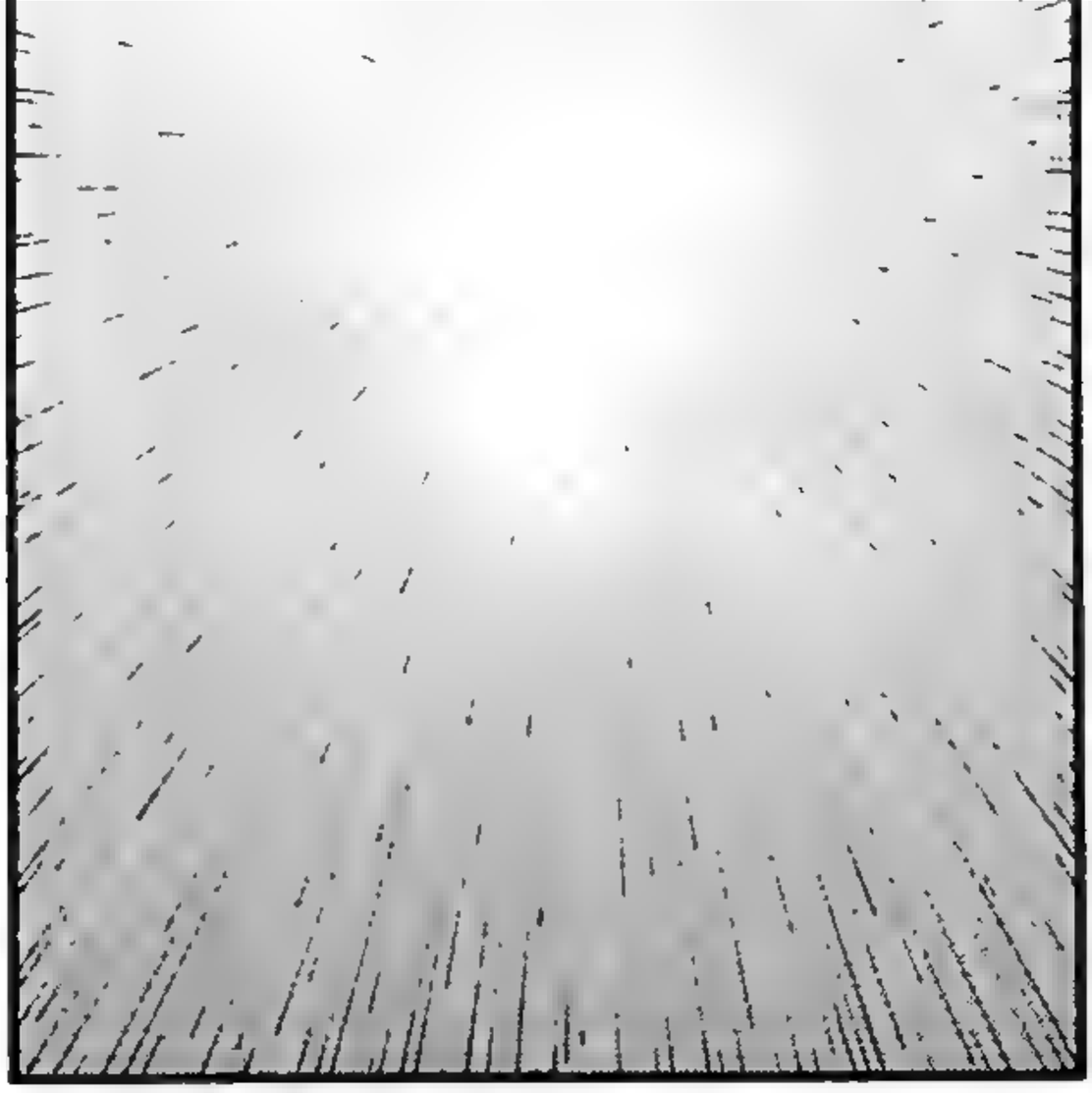
PLOW...


WHAT AM I TALKING ABOUT?

PLOW THE LAND, AND HARVEST IT.
THAT'S LIFE, IORI.

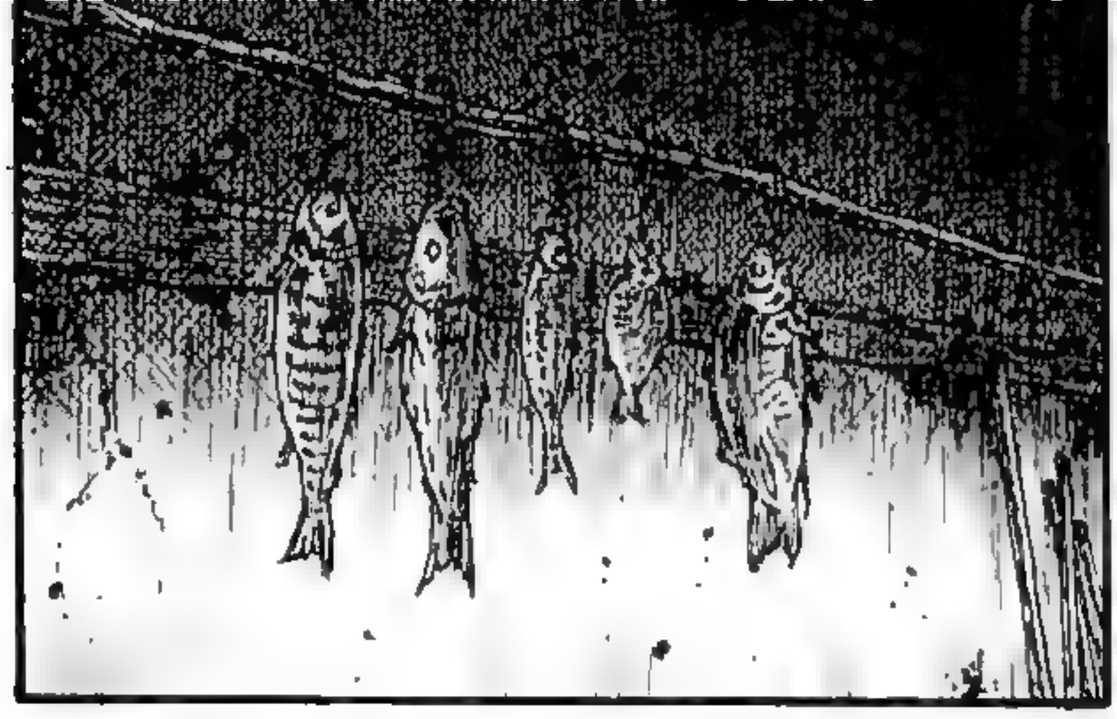
AS IF I KNEW...

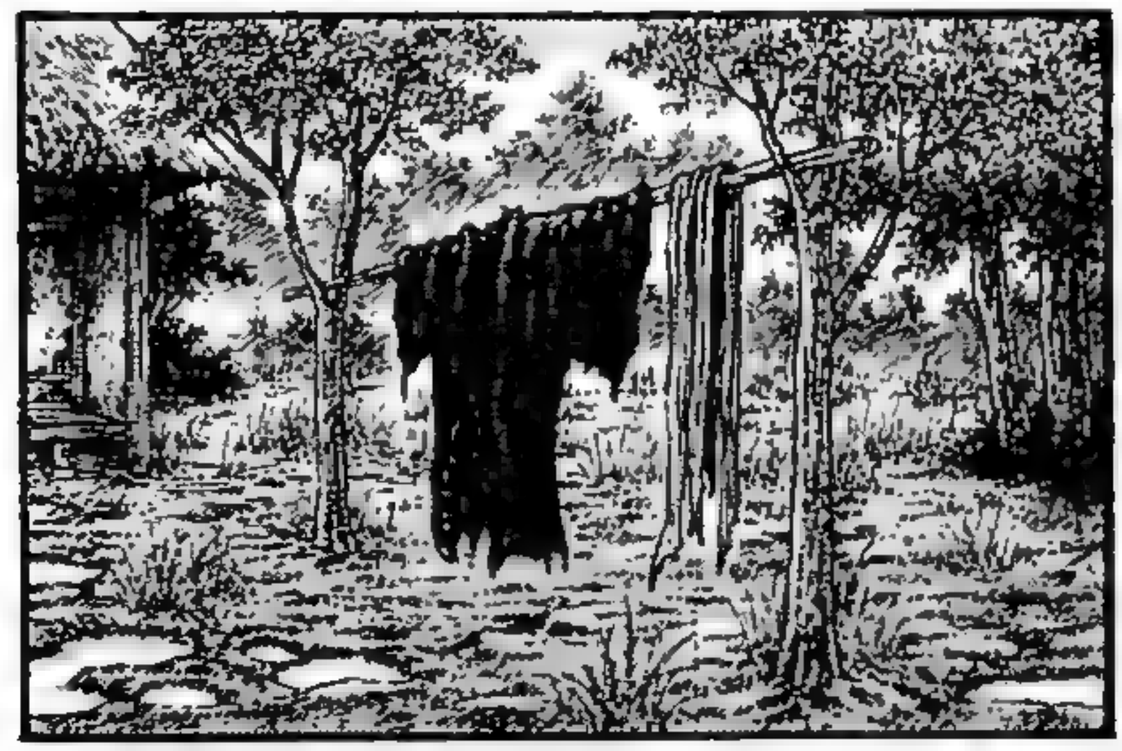
THE HEAVENS DON'T LAUGH.

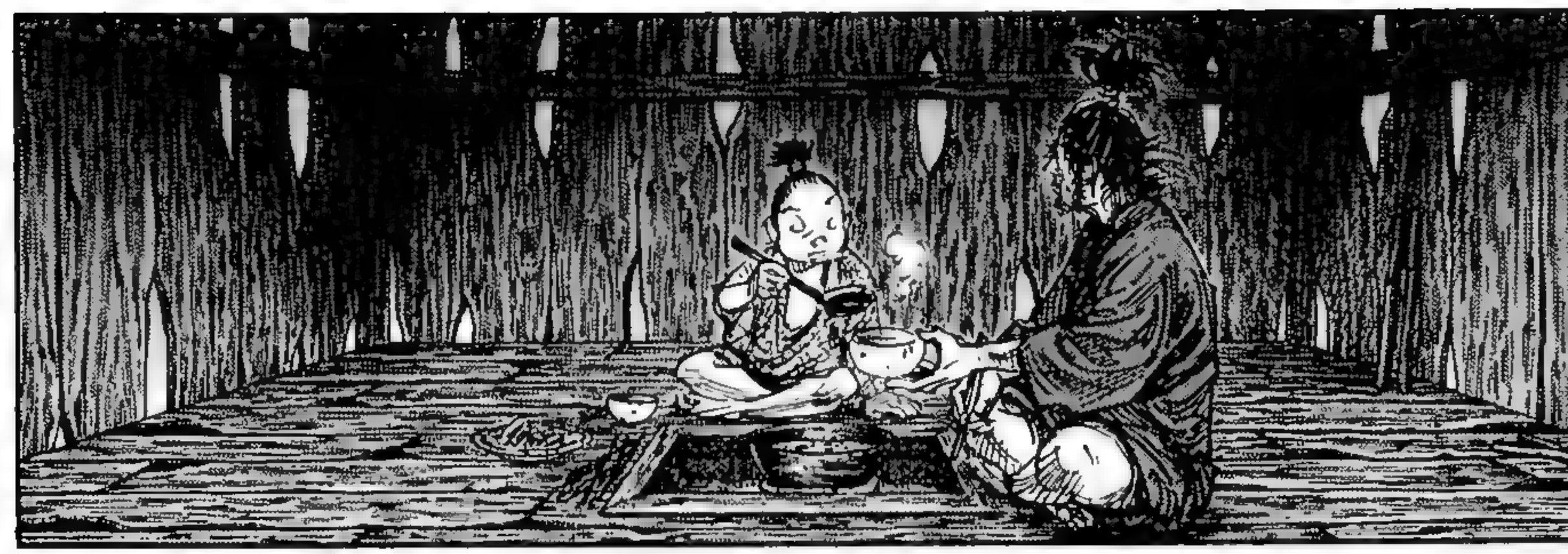


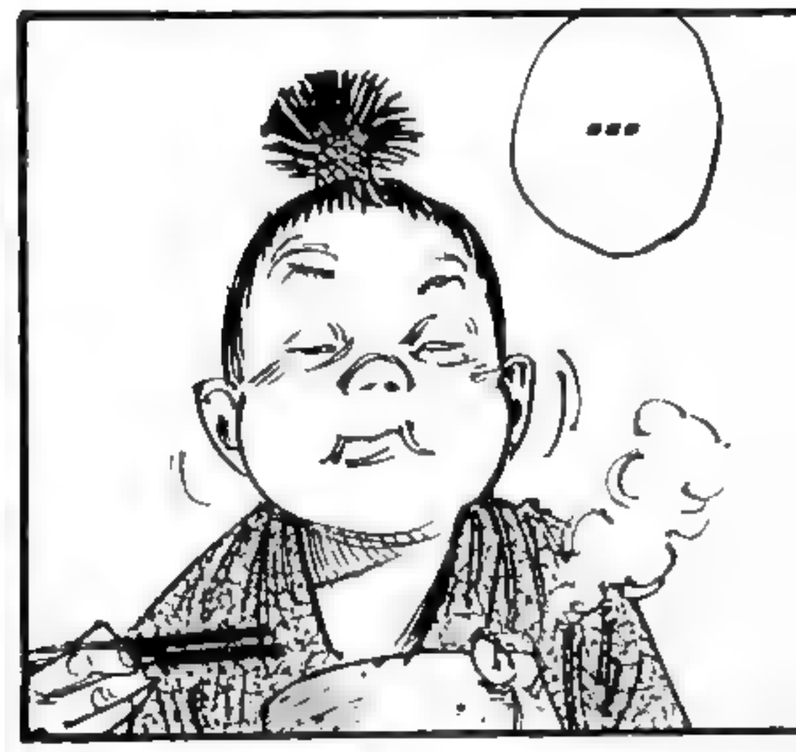
THEY MERELY WATCH OVER...

...WITH A SMILE.

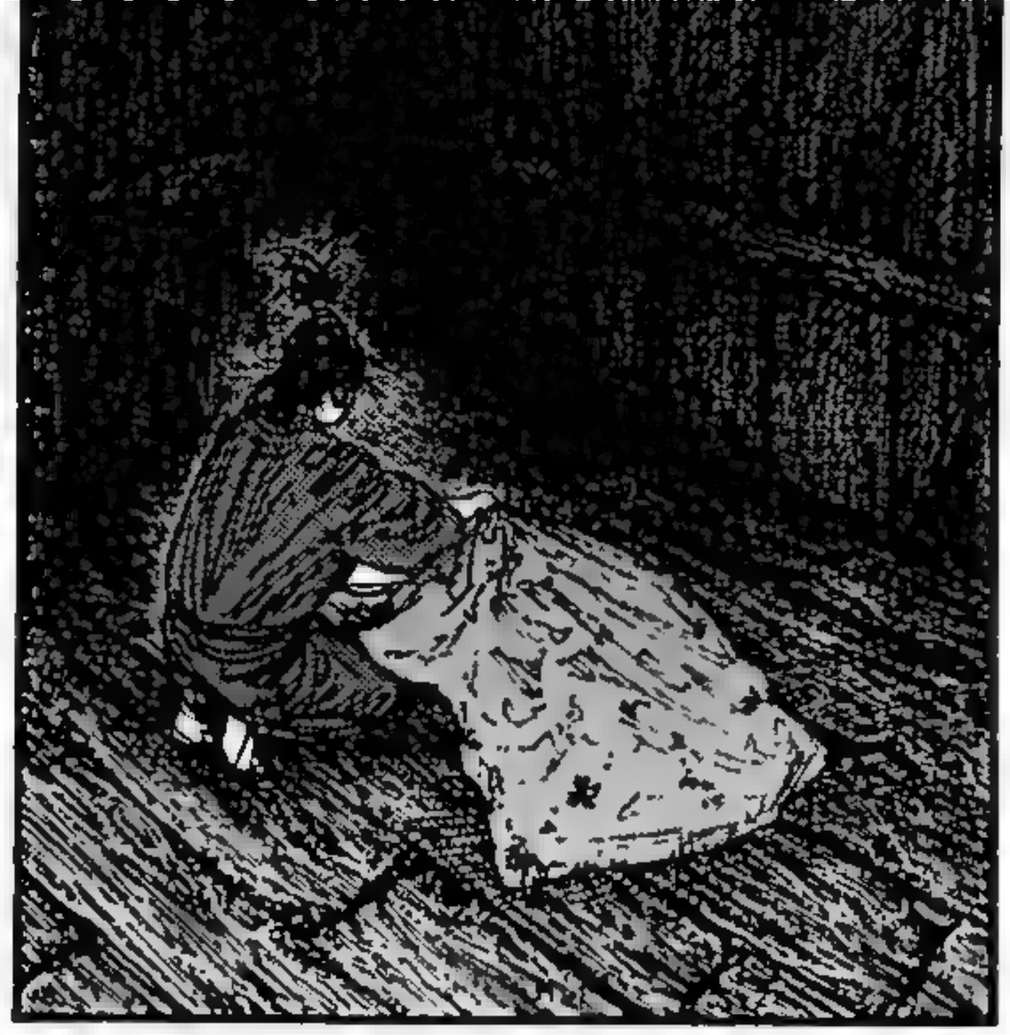




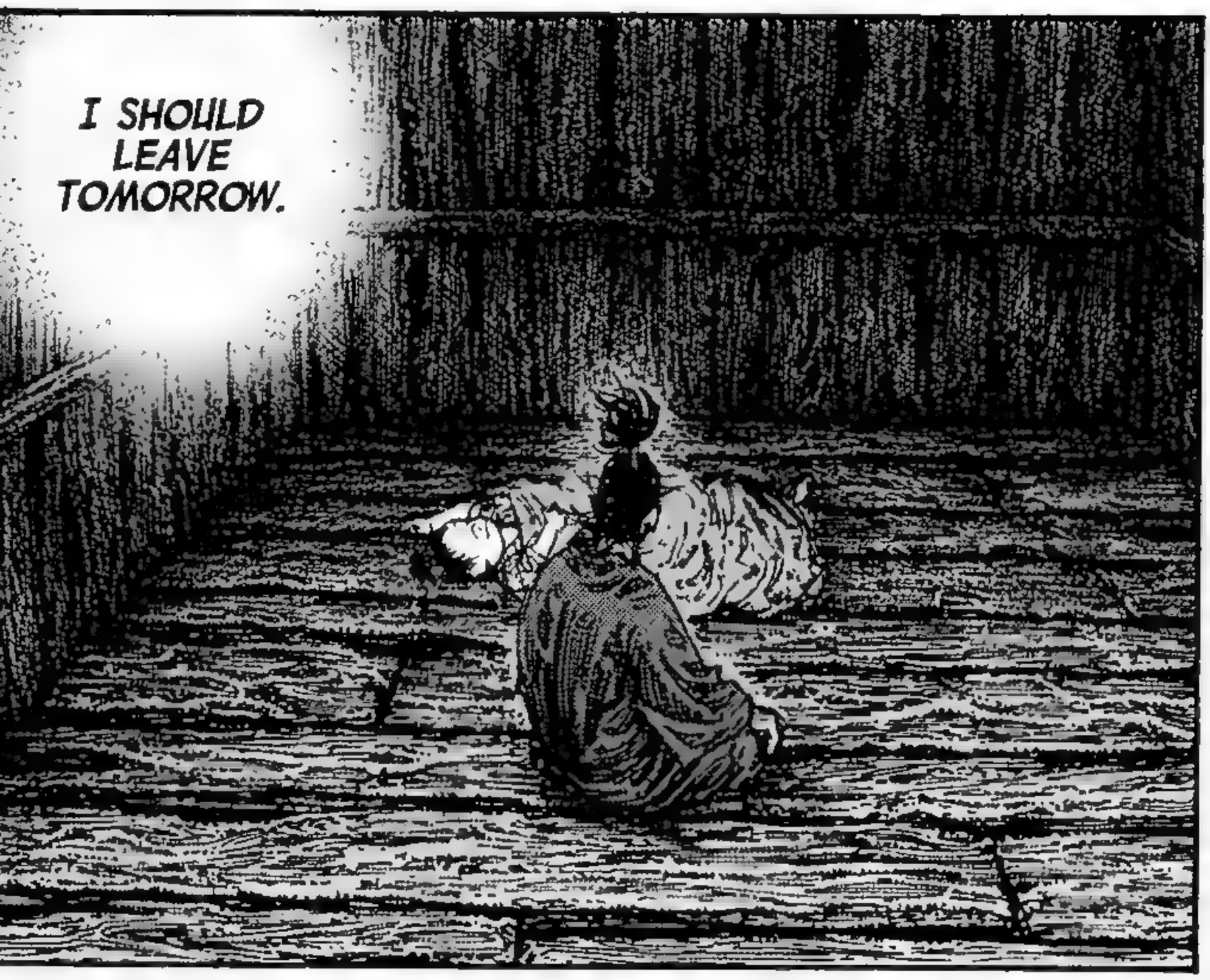


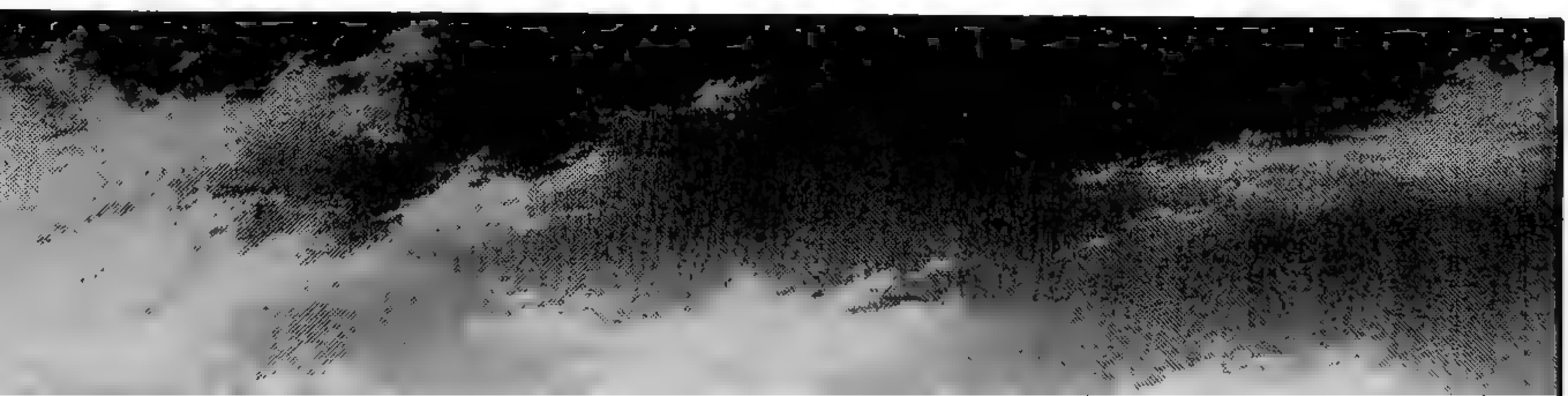


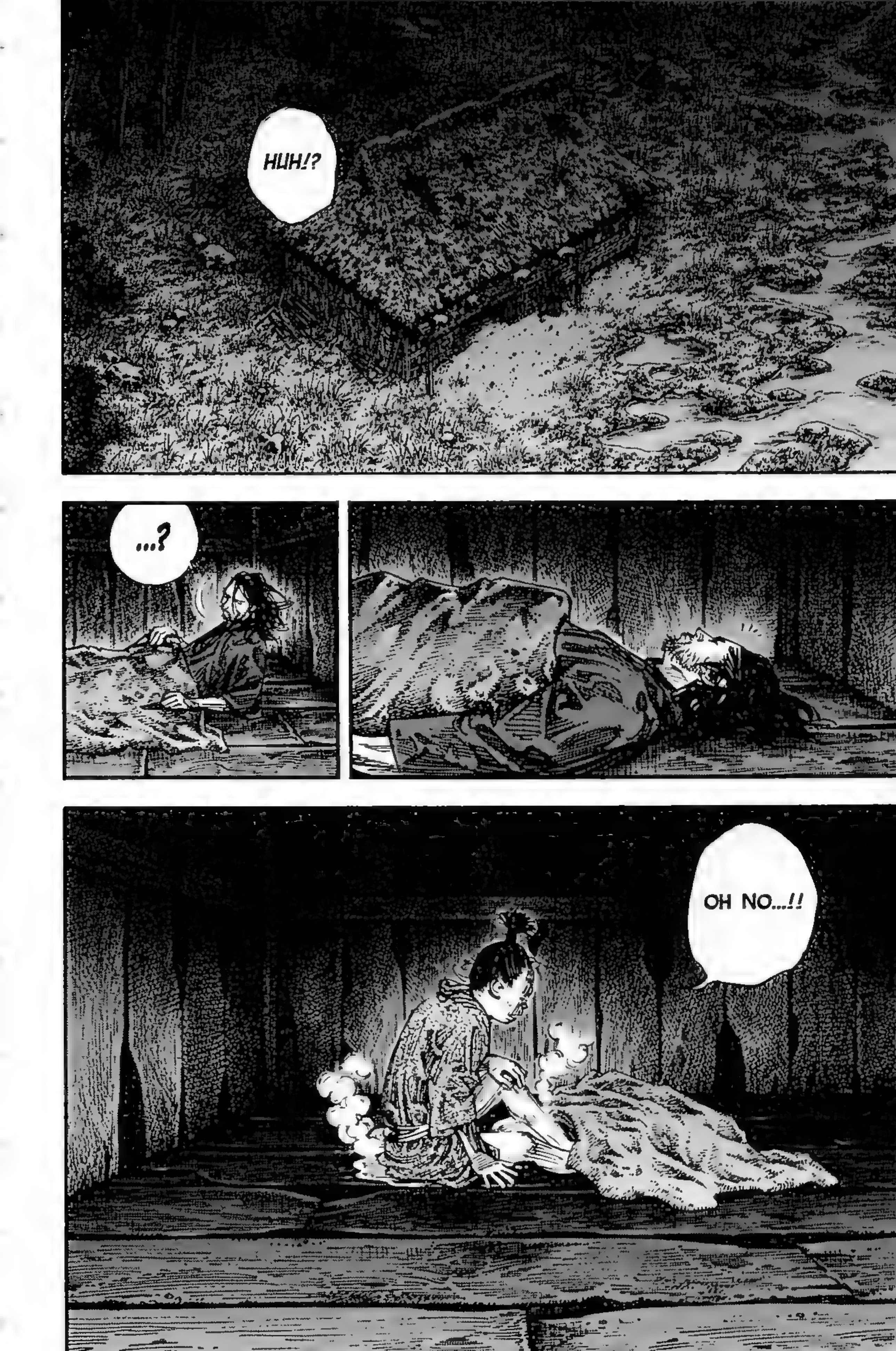
...



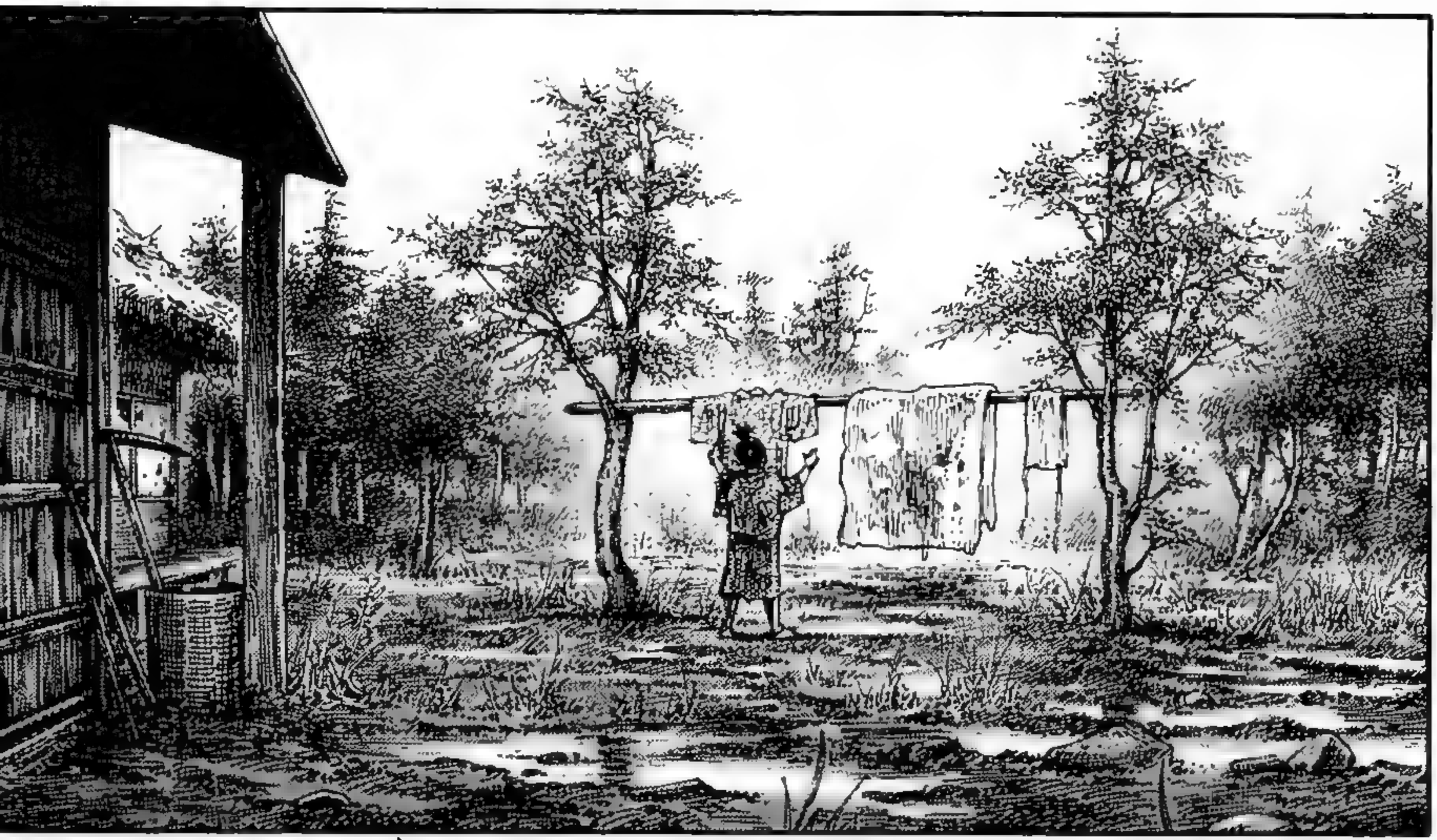
I WONDER HOW JŌTARŌ'S DOING.

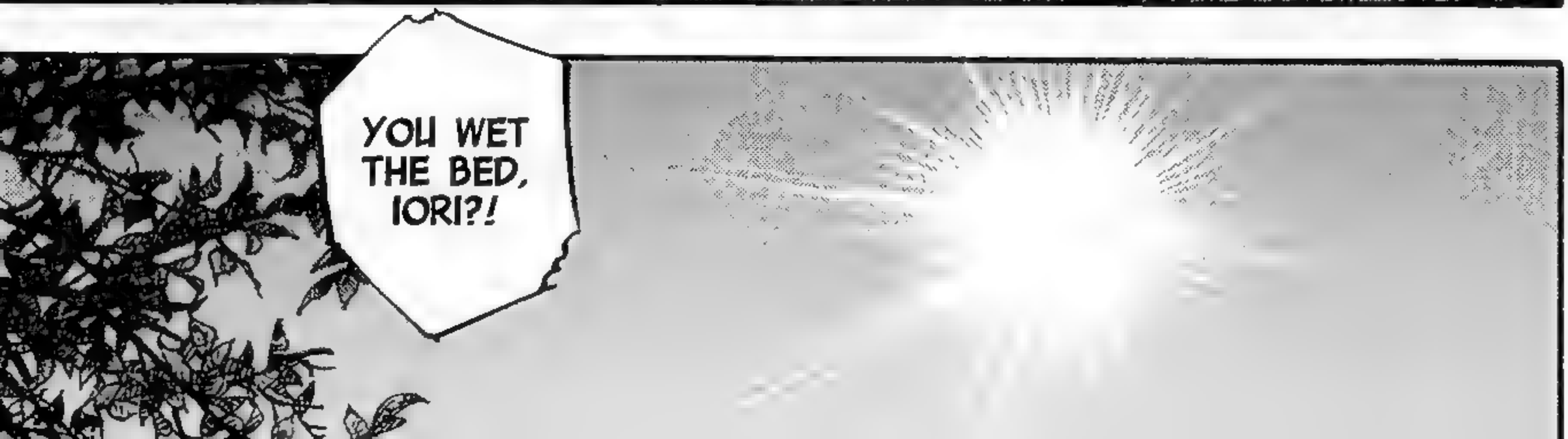

I SHOULD LEAVE TOMORROW.




HUH!?
...?
OH NO...!!

...




YOU WET THE BED, IORI?!

GRR

HA HA HA
GROW UP!

ARRGH!
WHOA! WATCH OUT!

LOSING YOUR DAD...

...THINGS AREN'T GOING TO GO LIKE THEY SHOULD.

ARE YOU LEAVING SOON?

I'VE GOT TO GO.

YUP.

WHY?

I THOUGHT YOU WERE A SAMURAI.

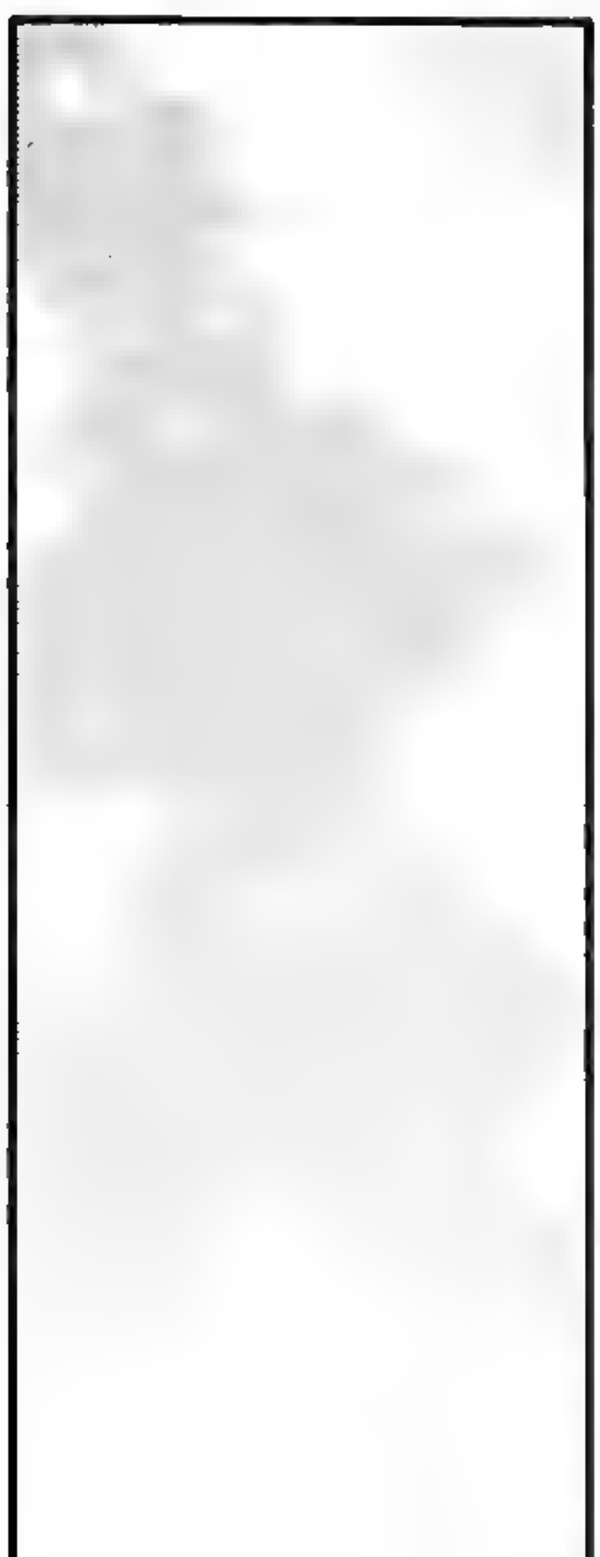
YOU WERE CRYING YESTERDAY...

...ON THE GROUND.

I HAVE TO GO.

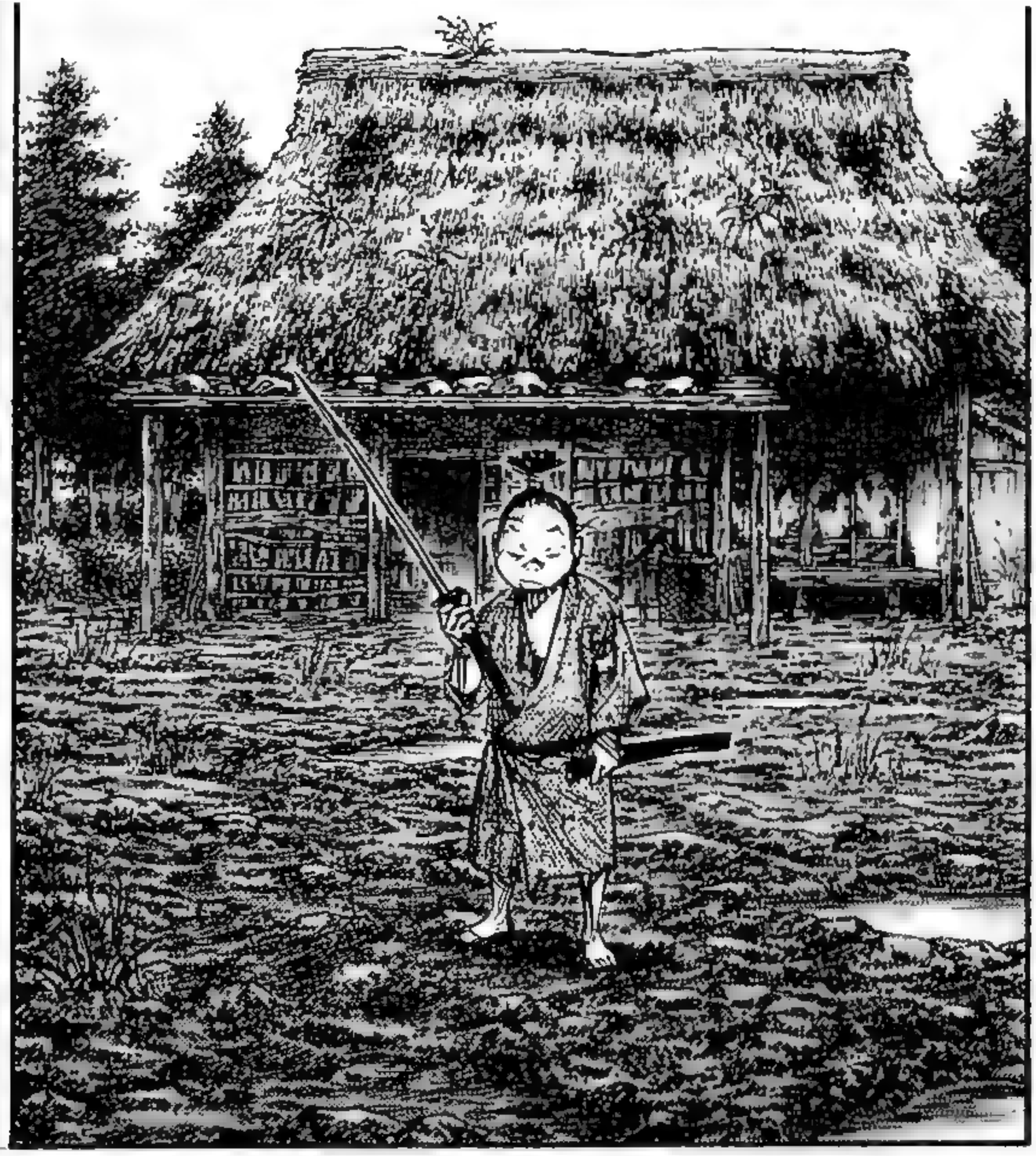
I WASN'T CRYING.

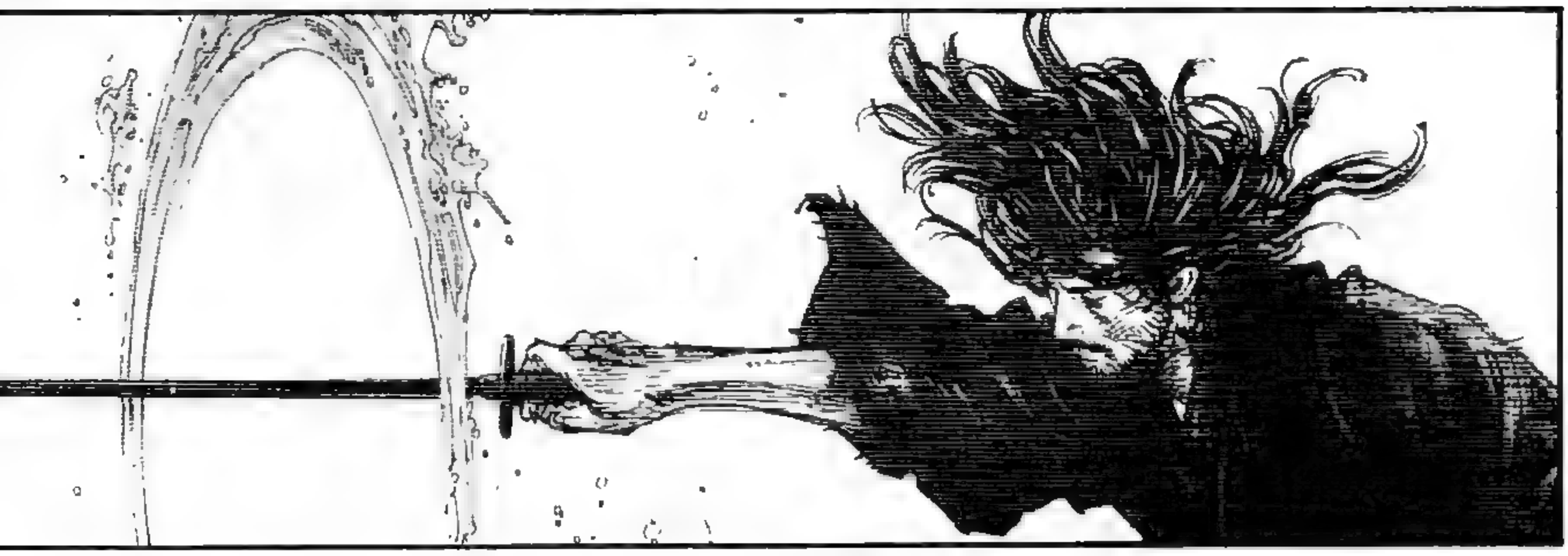
DON'T GO.



...

DON'T GO.





WHOA! WHAT'S THIS!?
C'MON, IORI!
STOP IT.

STOP!

YOU'RE GOING TO KILL US FOR TEASING YOU ABOUT THE PEE?!

YOU MADE FUN OF MY SICK DAD...

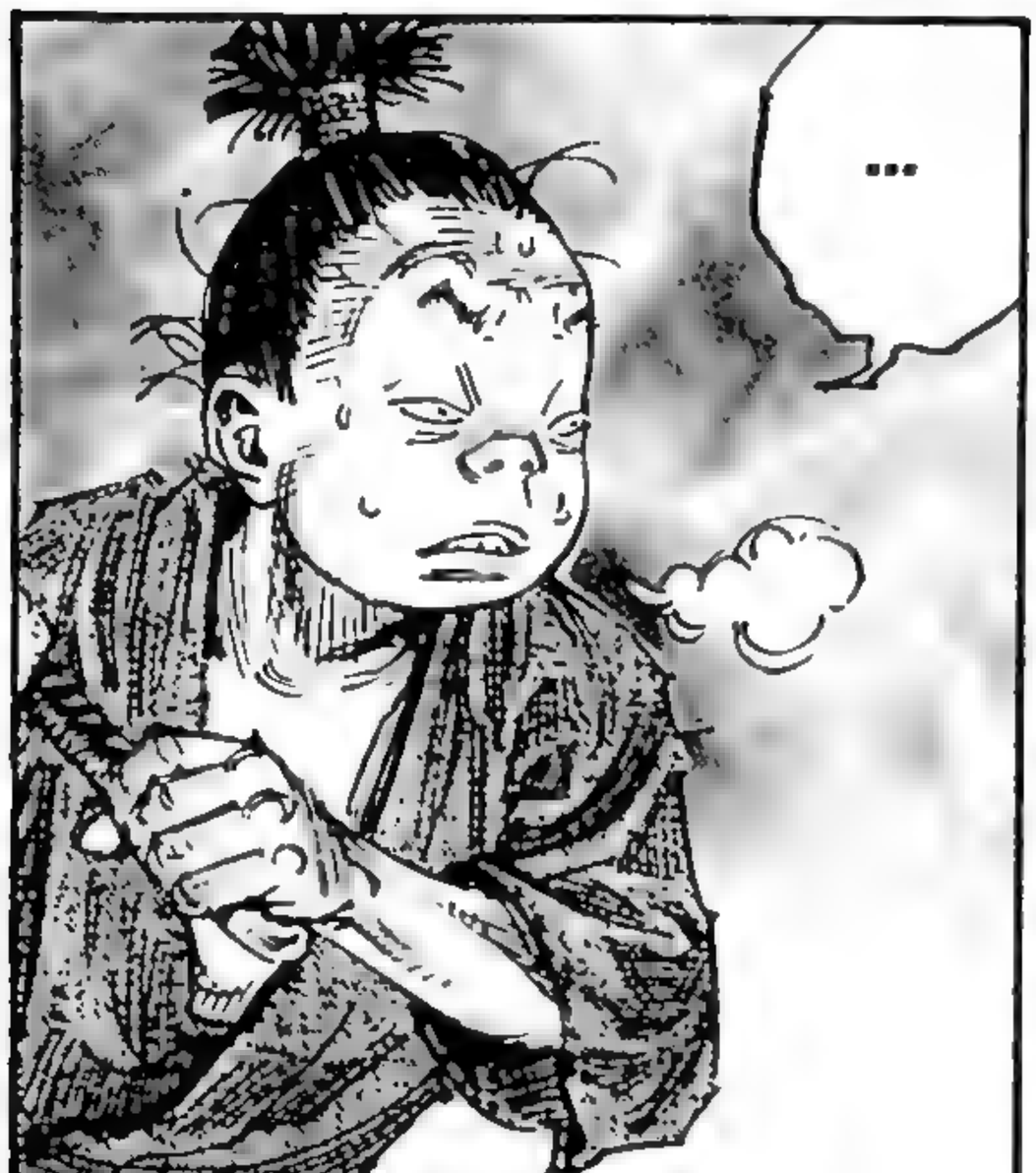
...SAID HE WAS WEAK.

THAT'S NOT IT.

TAKE THIS!

AIEEE!

!!


...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

...

IORI...

HELP US!

HE'S GOING TO...

FIRST, HOLD IT AS TIGHT AS YOU CAN.

?

...

LOOSEN UP.

FWIM

THAT'S RIGHT.

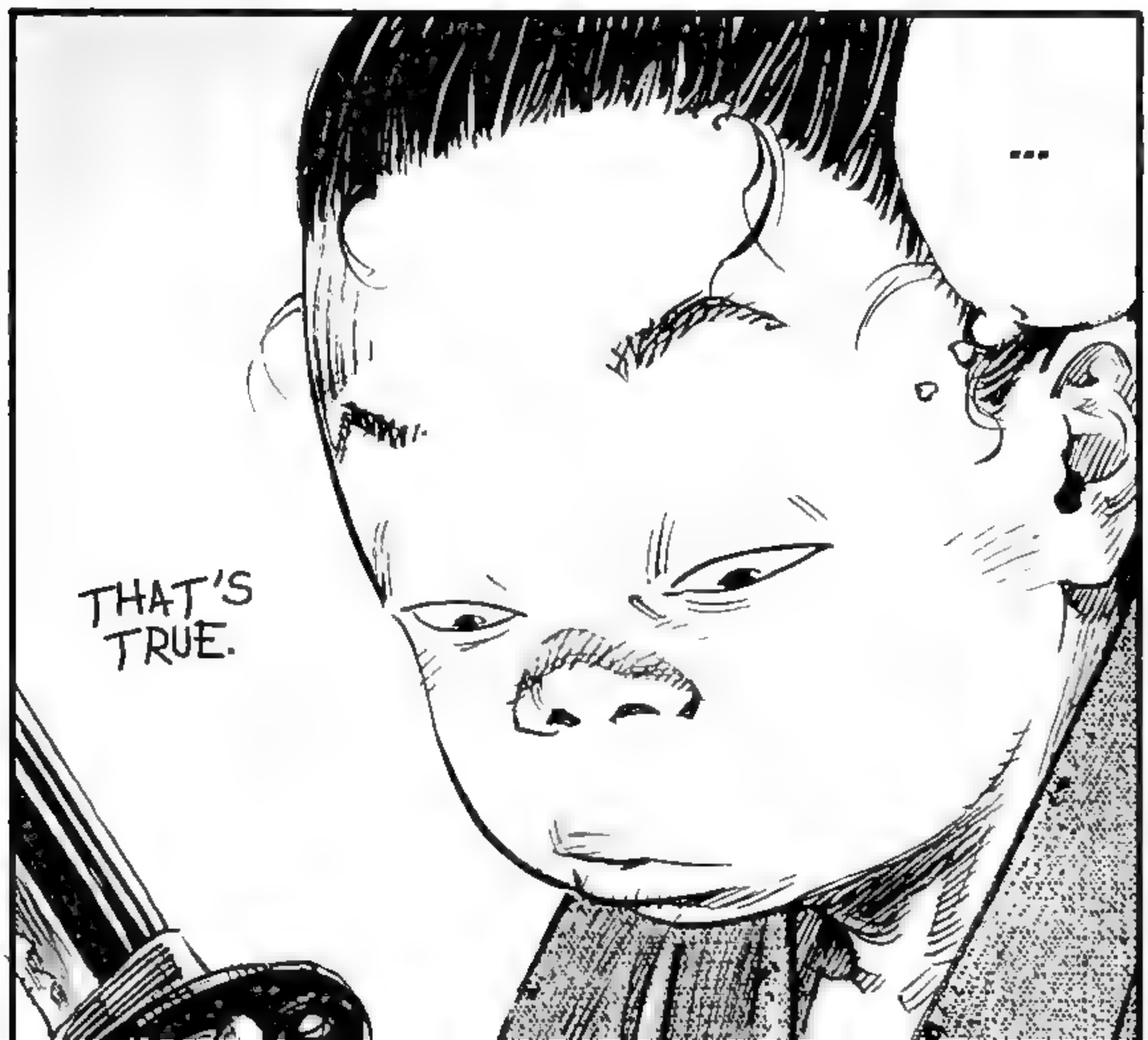
...

OKAY... NOW...

...

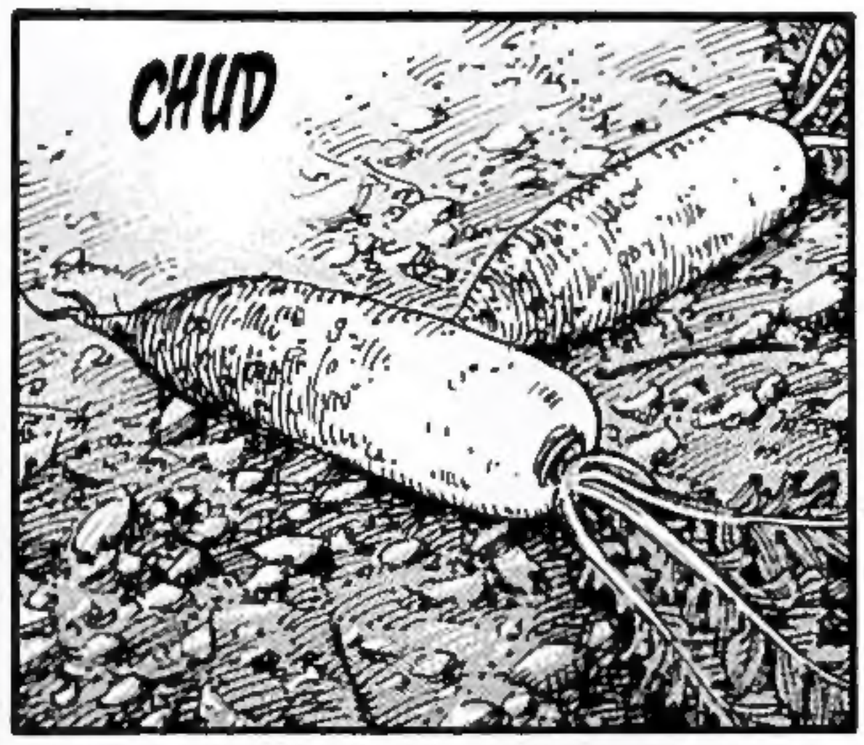
?!
I TOLD YOU, YOU CAN'T CUT ANYONE IF YOU HOLD IT TOO TIGHT.

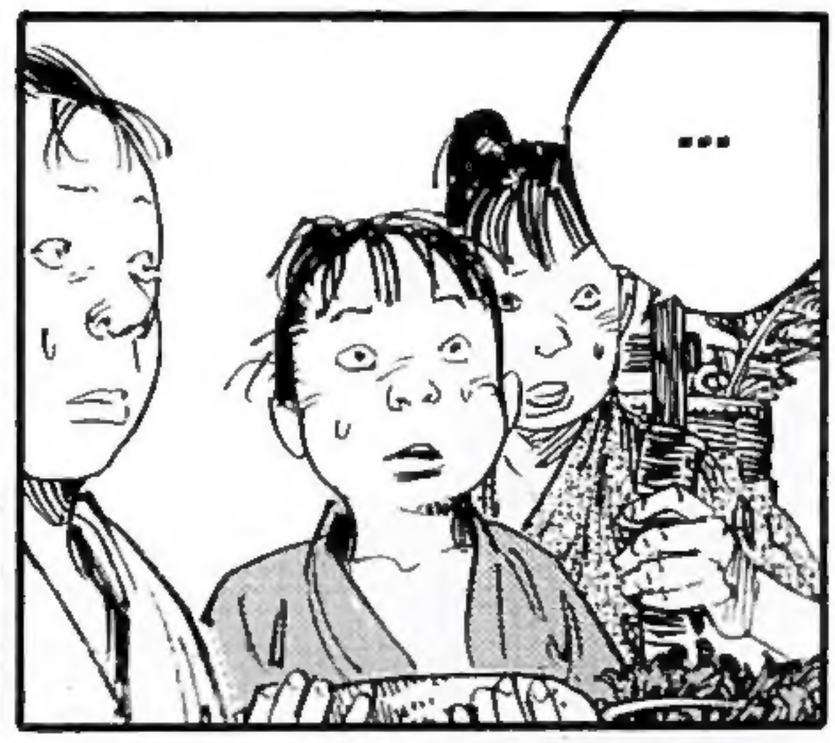
WAIT...
WHAT?


...
THAT'S TRUE.

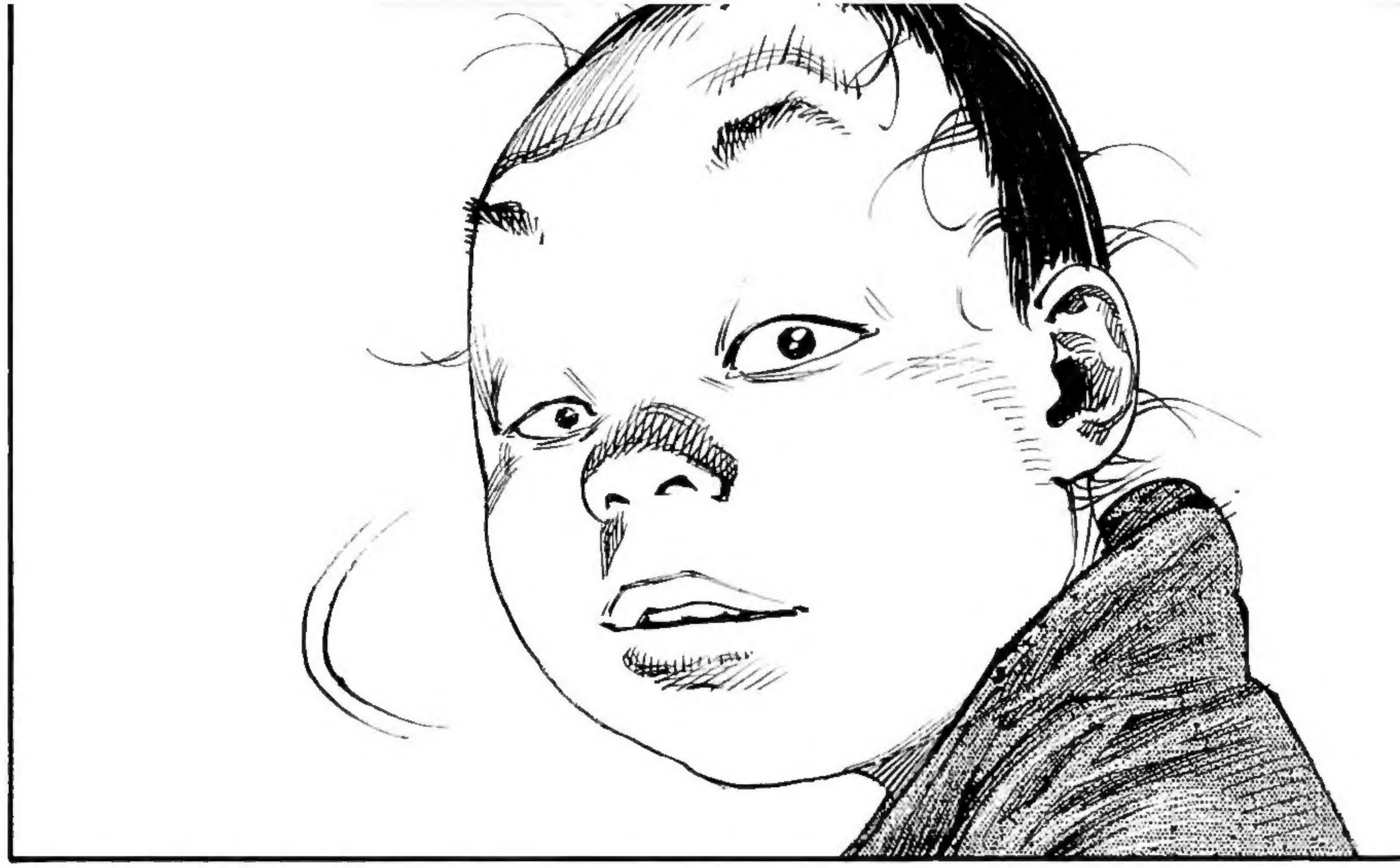
NOW...
...ATTACK-ING UNARMED PEOPLE...
THAT'S NOT FAIR, IS IT?

I-IN ...
...THE HILL FIELDS...
NICE DAIKON RADISHES. WHERE DID YOU FIND THEM?
CAN YOU SHARE SOME?


CHUD


...

LET'S GO HOME.



DID I SAY THAT?
A SAMURAI WHO BREAKS HIS WORD.
YOU SAID YOU WERE LEAVING, BUT NOW YOU'RE NOT.

Vagabond

モーニング
KC1947

9784063729474

1929979005627

雑誌 42671-47

ISBN978-4-06-372947-4

C9979 ¥562E(0)

モーニングKC 講談社 定価：本体562円(税別)

手探りで進むことは変わらない
ただ照らす光は遠くに揺らめく正解でなく
夢中で踊る内側の光
そんな風でありたい

井上雄彦

VAGABOND BY INOUE TAKEHIKO

Cover Illustrations by Inoue Takehiko
Designed by Teruhisa Tajima for Thesedays
Published 2012 in Japan by Kodansha, Ltd. "Morning"
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